



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Volunteers from across the city joined together Jan. 24 at the William Ramsay Recreation Center to distribute 250 new coats to children in need in the city's West End.**

## Keeping Children Warm

**250 new coats distributed in West End.**

Volunteers from the Alexandria Department of Recreation, in partnership with the Alexandria Police Department, Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, Departmental Progressive Club, Operation Warm, Act for Alexandria and Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, gathered Jan. 24 to distribute 250 new coats and more than 500 articles of new clothing to children at the William Ramsay Recreation Center.

"We wanted to bring the same community outreach to the West End of the city that has taken place in the East end for year," said Capt. Willie Bailey, a co-organizer of the event with Michael Johnson of the Recreation Department. "It's awesome to have the different agencies and organizations in the city come together to help those that need it the most. Because of everyone's sup-



**Merrick Malone with the Departmental Progressive Club checks the fit of a child's coat at the William Ramsay Recreation Center.**

port, we have given away over 3,000 new coats in the past three months to communities in Alexandria and Fairfax County.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



**Volunteers from the fire department and sheriff's office help distribute coats at the William Ramsay Recreation Center.**

## Separate But Equal

**Class-segregated pool at proposed housing complex dampens council enthusiasm for project.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

The two housing complexes of The Filmore, proposed by AHC Inc. along Echols Avenue at the Jan. 24 City Council public hearing, seemed alike in almost every way. The East Building would contain market rate housing, and the West Building would contain affordable housing, but the two complexes would share a public courtyard, a playground, and a day-care center. In other words, an ideal housing project that would bring 93 additional units of affordable housing

to Alexandria, and the council seemed ready to vote in favor of an amendment to the Alexandria West Small Area Plan to include the project and a special use permit for the site when Councilman John Chapman asked for a quick clarification on one of the apartment amenities.

"Is the [pool] going to be accessible to everyone?" Chapman asked.

"It would be for the market rate housing only," answered Duncan Blair, an attorney from Land, Carroll & Blair representing AHC, Inc. "When we look at the market

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 8

## Working Toward Restorative Justice

**TC students take aim at suspension rates and new disciplinary policy.**

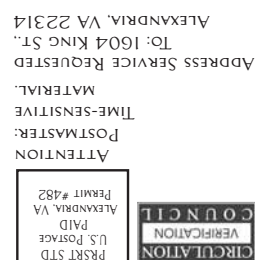
BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

A word of warning to students at T.C. Williams High School hoping to skip out on classes in the second half of their senior year: Don't. A new policy implemented at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year gives teachers at TC final say over whether a student can pass or fail a class regardless of the final

grade. While administrators are saying the new rule is part of the unfortunate necessity of discipline at the high school, students say the rule is part of a disciplinary mindset that unfairly targets minorities.

"If you're not at your desk and completely prepared, that's classified as being late," said Gladys Brew, a student at TC. "They threaten you with changing your

SEE TC STUDENTS, PAGE 8





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## Jail Policy on ICE Changes

According to Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hold persons of interest for up to 48 hours will no longer be honored without an accompanying warrant. The announcement follows a statement from Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring early in Jan. stating that requests from the ICE to hold people in custody were not mandatory and a similar policy change from Arlington Sheriff Beth Arthur.

"ICE officials have agreed that they would not ask us to hold anyone beyond their sentence in order for them to conduct their investigation," said Lawhorne. "They'll still contact us to let us know they're interested, but they won't ask to hold someone on that alone. They'll make the decision on whether or not they want to obtain a warrant prior to the release date."

— VERNON MILES

## Bank Robber Sentenced

Thomas B. Peeler, 47, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced last week to 240 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for the armed robberies of a BB&T bank in Alexandria and a GameStop store in Clementon, N.J.. He was also ordered to pay \$63,045.88 in restitution.

Dana J. Boente, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and Andrew G. McCabe, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, made the announcement after sentencing by U.S. District Judge Anthony J. Trenga.

Peeler pleaded guilty on Nov. 7, 2014. According to court documents, within nine months of being released from a 10-year federal prison sentence for a prior bank robbery, Peeler committed two armed robberies in Alexandria and one armed robbery in Clementon, N.J. At sentencing, the court also noted that the defendant committed three additional robberies in New Jersey during this time.

As part of his plea agreement, the defendant admitted that he brandished a firearm and threatened to harm or kill employees during his robbery of BB&T bank on April 22, 2010. The defendant also admitted that he displayed a firearm during his robbery of GameStop on May 7, 2010. Peeler was ultimately connected to both robberies after two citizens observed Peeler walking to a getaway car outside the BB&T bank after the robbery and noted the vehicle's license plate.

## Pedestrian Injured in Accident

Westbound traffic on Duke at S. Ingram Street was detoured Monday night, Feb. 2, to the access road while the Alexandria Police Department investigated a pedestrian-involved traffic accident. The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries.

## Police Investigating Robberies

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating two armed robberies that occurred last week.

On Sunday, Jan. 25, police responded to a report of robbery from a person in the 300 block Cameron Station Boulevard. The suspect brandished a firearm but no one was injured.

On Monday, Jan. 26, police responded to a report of a robbery of a gas station in the 700 block of N. Washington Street. The suspect brandished handgun and stole cash. No one was injured.

## Museum Reopens

The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax St., reopened Sunday, Feb. 1 after being closed for two months of repairs and restoration. In order to better preserve the historic space and collection, the museum will institute a tour capacity policy, capping regular walk-in tours at 10 people. Visitors can guarantee a space in a tour by calling 703-746-3852 to purchase tickets in advance. Beginning late March tickets will also be available online at <https://shop.alexandriavm.org>. Call 703-746-3852, or visit [www.apothecarymuseum.org](http://www.apothecarymuseum.org).

# St. Joseph Marks 100 Years

## Bishop to celebrate Mass Sunday for congregation proud of its diversity.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

Is the most segregated hour in modern America spent in church? The 500 families that attend Alexandria's St. Joseph Catholic Church show that not all church communities are homogeneous. In its 100<sup>th</sup> year, Saint Joseph serves a parish that is as diverse as Alexandria itself. To experience its variety and love of all families and individuals, St. Joseph's clergy and members welcome the community at large to an ongoing celebration of St. Joseph's centennial birthday, beginning this Sunday, Feb. 8.

To kick off its century celebration, St. Joseph will host Bishop Paul S. Loverde, who oversees all Catholic churches in the Arlington diocese, which stretches across northern and central Virginia. Loverde will celebrate the 11 a.m. Mass, and then will be the guest of honor at the celebration's opening reception following Mass.

The Rev. Donald Fest, the pastor at St. Joseph's, said the 100-year old church is indeed a special one. He has been with the church for more than two years and has never seen anything like it. St. Joseph embodies genuine diversity.

"All the churches I have been with in the past 38 years have been all-black," Fest said. "This parish is 50-50, 50 percent black and 50 percent 'other.' It is diverse in economics, situation of the people and racial composition."

Fest belongs to the Josephite Priest and Brothers, a religious order that has been serving the African American Catholic community since the emancipation of slaves.

The church has been in the same building since 1915, when it sat amidst the projects of Alexandria. It was established by Josephites to ensure that black Catholics had a place to worship comfortably without fear of discrimination.

"It was founded in this part of town because this is where most of the black population was," Fest said. "It was where most of the projects were, which was predominantly black. To this day, this church has the largest composition of black Catholics than any other Catholic church in Northern Virginia. We are kind of the black Catholic presence to the diocese of Arlington. We have been here and when they took away a lot of the public housing and did gentrification of the housing, and that's when the population began to turn. That is why we are so diverse today."

He said what keeps everyone excited and committed to coming back every Sunday is the openness and spirit of the parishioners.

"The people that come here know that this is a parish that caters to black Catholics," Fest said. "They like the spirit of place, the worship that takes place

here and the fellowship of the parish."

The church has both the St. Joseph Gospel Choir as well as the Chorale Choir. They will combine this year as the Centennial Choir and will sing in unison this Sunday for Loverde's mass.

St. Joseph has planned events throughout 2015 to celebrate its birthday. Its Centennial Committee members have been planning multiple festivities and special worship opportunities from the opening reception this Sunday through a closing Mass on Nov. 15. The Centennial theme is "Celebrating the past and embracing the future."

"From now until Nov. 15, we have a banquet planned, a fashion show, a golf tournament, a parish fair and a Revival planned," Fest said. "We want to accentuate all the men and women who have gone before us that have laid the groundwork and upon whose shoulders we now stand. What we must do to keep this vibrant parish so we can hand this on to the young people."

The goal of all these events is neither to evangelize nor to fundraise, but instead to simply and fully celebrate. The church and its members are open and excited to have anyone and everyone involved in the committees and event planning.

Callie Terrell, a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and a founder of its 39-year old gospel choir, said she is looking forward to every event this year. She is most excited, though, about the Revival, which will take place March 16-18.

"A Revival is a service that helps revive your spirit and gets you back on track," Terrell said. "It will just to refresh you during the Lenten season. [The celebrant] will

be there to talk about repenting, to prepare the way for the Lord." Terrell said she goes to St. Joseph's to worship every Sunday, whether sitting in the pews or singing with the rest of the gospel choir. She said her greatest hope for this year's celebration is that it will hopefully inspire people to return to church.

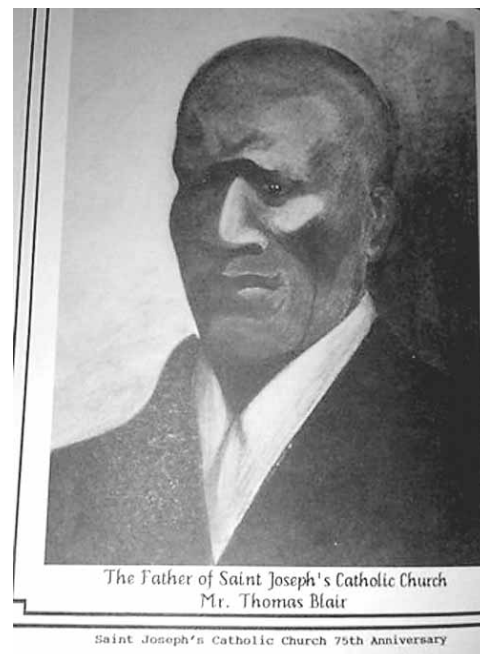
"I am looking forward to every Sunday to see who shows up," she said. "You never know who this might bring in. If we bring one person back, then we have accomplished what we need to accomplish in 2015."

Terrell has been a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church since the mid-1950s. She attended the church's school from first grade until it shut down in 1969. She also raised her children in the church.

"I feel a closeness with my pastor, with the deacons and all the members of the church," she said. "St. Joseph has changed a lot because of the demographics in the neighborhood. Now there are just as many blacks as whites and it's not a problem. I love all the priests that we have had. I just love my church and the gospel and word that I get."

For a complete list of Centennial events, please visit the church website at [www.stjosephva.org](http://www.stjosephva.org) and click on "Centennial."

Masses are at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. every Sunday. The St. Joseph Gospel Choir sings on the first and third Sunday of every month at the 11 a.m. mass. The Chorale choir sings at all other masses.





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*Dawn Gurganus 571-237-6151*

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## PEOPLE

# 'We Were Annihilated'

## WWII veteran remembers The Battle of the Bulge.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

It was one of the best kept secrets of World War II. When 20-year-old U.S. Army Medic Robert Wineland arrived in the village of Laudersfeld, the wooded countryside of far eastern Belgium was relatively peaceful, a quiet buffer zone disrupted only by occasional artillery fire and brief skirmishes between opposing infantry patrols. But on Dec. 16, 1944, the sleepy Ardennes front was about to wake up. The Battle of the Bulge had begun.

"I was having a conversation with my captain and two young cooks outside the farmhouse we were staying in when I realized I had forgotten my wool cap," recalled Wineland. "I darted inside to retrieve it and noticed a window was ajar. Just as I reached up to close it, a loud explosion shattered the glass and blew me backwards. I thought to myself, 'Good going, Bob. Here it is, the first day of action and you got shot.'"

When he realized he was not injured, Wineland made his way back outside. As he looked for his captain, he saw something on an adjacent hilltop that stopped him dead in his tracks. "I knew what it was immediately,"

Wineland said. "A German King Tiger tank, one of the biggest tanks ever built and nearly twice the size of our Sherman tanks. It had fired an 88mm shell, blowing off the heads of those two young cooks."

Despite the danger, Wineland crawled on the ground to tag the two casualties then, still on his belly, made his way to a nearby barn to hunker down. Under cover of darkness that night, he made his way through the Belgian countryside, at one point getting lost in the Ardennes Forest for several days. Reunited with his comrades in Vielsalm just before Christmas, he remained on the front lines as the battle continued throughout January 1945.

"Germany's surprise attack had thrown the Allies into disarray," the Alexandria resident recalled as the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle's end neared on Jan. 28. "In a single brief engagement, my 106<sup>th</sup> Division suffered more losses in casualties



Dr. Robert Wineland, right, talks with Tom Roberts about his experience during the Battle of the Bulge at a recent Alexandria Rotary Club meeting.

and captured than any other American division in World War II. We were annihilated."

The Battle of the Bulge — so nicknamed because of the "bulge" in the map where German forces broke

through the Allied line — was the last major offensive on the Western Front during WWII. But despite the success of the initial attack, timely reinforcements and improving weather that allowed Allied air forces to take to the skies reversed the fate of the Germans. "It was the largest battle fought by American forces during World War II," Wineland said. With 840,000 troops committed, it was also among the bloodiest with more than 186,000 casualties. Discharged in December 1945, Wineland returned home to Anacostia to continue his pre-med studies at George Washington University. He went on to complete his medical degree there in 1951, the same year he married Stuart de Murguiondo. Following residencies at the Children's Hospital in Washington and University of Colorado Hospital in Denver, the two settled in Alexandria in 1955.

"When I first started my practice in 1955, there were no hospitals in Alexandria or Fairfax County other than Alexandria Hospital," said Wineland, who was the sole pediatrician between Alexandria and Richmond. "So when the Alexandria Hospital announced its move from Old Town to the far West End of the city in 1959, a small group of doctors decided to search for a site for a new, more local hospital."

Meeting in the living room of Wineland's Hollin Hills home, the "Doctors Group," as they called themselves, began seeking support for

SEE VETERAN'S, PAGE 12



Army Medic Robert Wineland, in Belgium in late 1944, was part of the 106<sup>th</sup> Division during the Battle of the Bulge.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

By JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

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## PEOPLE

# Protecting Wildlife and Planes

## Reagan National Airport biologists help move birds from flight paths.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**R**eagan National Airport was deserted as more than 4,600 flights had been cancelled in anticipation of a record-breaking snowstorm on the East Coast. Clay Mealman, the new USDA wildlife biologist at Reagan had been up at dawn patrolling the airport perimeter. Ryan Stewart was transitioning Mealman into the position. Stewart had been “burning the midnight oil” shuttling back and forth nearly daily between Dulles, where he is currently the wildlife biologist, and Reagan.

Stewart said at Reagan there are between 35-55 bird strikes a year. “We have picked up goose carcasses halfway to the bridge from wildlife strikes,” he said from his vantage point at Gravelly Point right under the flight path at the airport. In the winter there can be 5,000-10,000 geese. He added, “wildlife on the field can be a hazard. They can strike the aircraft and cause damage and hurt passengers.”

Mealman interjected, “Our goal is to protect flight safety and protect birds at the same time so they don’t get injured.” Reagan has had a wildlife biologist since 1999. The strike problem came more in focus as the FAA started collecting data in 1990 that showed these bird strikes could be costly to aircraft. The goal is to scare away flocks of birds or to capture them and relocate.

Stewart added, “See this red cartridge is a banger that projects up in the air with a cap gun. And this yellow one is a screamer that makes a loud noise like a rocket.” He says they also extend the pyrotechnics out onto the water to “extend the reach.” These are used to scare birds away. Stewart points to a Bal-Chatr trap with an agitated pigeon trapped inside. “These have been used for thousands of years and work with a noose. It doesn’t hurt the bird. And this is an Avian Dissuader,” he said, moving a glowing red dot around on his white truck door with a laser. He says it is harmless and very effective. Sometimes they use the pole trap. Birds perch on the top of the pole and a spring trap closes on the bird’s legs.

“But,” Stewart said, “it is a softer spring and a padded jaw so it won’t damage the bird.”

They catch a number of raptors including red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, kestrels and an attempt to catch a snowy owl. “After last year’s eruption, the snowy owls are back so we’ve been trying to capture one. There have been two at Reagan and six at Dulles.”

Mealman added, “We think the snowy owls like Reagan airport because where else can you find acres of open grass in a big city.”

Stewart said the wildlife problem is seasonal with summer causing fewer problems. “Not as many birds migrate in the summer and some are molting so they aren’t flying.”

Mealman says he received a natural resources aviation degree from the University of Minnesota and then helped farmers protect their crops from blackbird damage. He



The red cartridge is shot into the air with a cap gun and the yellow cartridge is a “screamer” that lets out a loud noise.

earned a commercial pilot’s license and studied prairie chickens in graduate school. “I started looking for a job in a pretty competitive field. I didn’t even know these jobs existed. But I grew up being outdoors so this was a natural fit.” He had several shorter-terms jobs before starting three weeks ago at Reagan National.

Stewart got his start as a science major in school. Then his college roommate told him how he had caught a woodpecker, “and I thought it was really cool.” He came from Virginia Tech to Dulles where he has been the wildlife biologist for eight years and was a wildlife specialist for four years previous to that.

Stewart presses a button moving the motorized car across the grass scaring any birds in its path. He has a miniature boat used for the same purpose on the water. Stewart said the biggest challenge at Reagan is the Potomac River which is a significant wildlife attractant. Stewart said it is a small piece of land to manage but the key is habitat modification; it is important to educate the public on the bird strike issue, pointing to a man in the parking lot throwing crumbs at pigeons surrounding him on the concrete. “That’s not helpful.”

There is always something different every day in this job. “One day a dog got loose on the field from one of the airplanes and ran straight for the river.

The river rescue responded and pulled the dog from the water.” They returned the dog to its owner. “It was some kind of special dog.” Both wildlife biologists agreed they got into these jobs because they like wildlife. Mealman concluded that it’s all part of an integrated management program. The goal is to manage the various aspects of the airfield, use all methods to move birds in the safest way possible while promoting air safety.



Ryan Stewart sets up a pole trap to entice birds to perch on the top where a “soft” spring trap closes on the bird’s legs



The motorized car in the foreground scares off birds on the ground. The small boat is used for the same purpose on the water.



The laser gun shoots a small red dot that is very effective and safe at scaring off birds.



An agitated pigeon is caught in a cage that uses a noose to entrap the bird. The bird isn’t harmed in the process.



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1111 N. 19th St. #1506  
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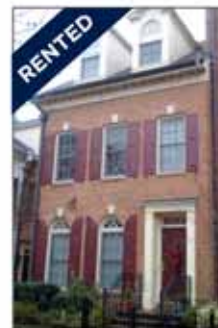
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# Council Questions Class-segregated Pool in Housing Proposal

FROM PAGE 1

rate building, it is subsidizing the affordable building, so it needs to be successful itself .... It's unfortunate that the amenities aren't shared, but from an operational and financing standpoint the model is that they will be separate."

There was a short silence before the City Council responded almost universally in alarm. While each of the council members expressed their support for the added 93 added units of affordable housing, they also expressed grave concerns about the precedent.

"What you're setting up here is going to be pretty divisive, I would think," said Councilwoman Del Pepper. "I don't see it working out. It would be awfully nice if the market rate housing could share that pool."

Members of City Council expressed concerns that the city financing would be helping to pay for a housing project that would be specifically segregating classes. Much of the financing the project will come from a \$5.7 million city loan.

"You're asking for city financing to support this," said Mayor William Euille, "and it's not just a couple hundred dollars, it's almost six million."

Euille initially proposed incorporating another pool into the building for the affordable housing unit, but Alexandria Director of Housing Helen McIlvaine said there would be no room or financing to build, maintain, or pay for an additional pool. Most of the conversation, however, focused around allowing the East Building residents access to the West Building Only pool. According to Blair, however, if the affordable housing residents couldn't help pay for the pool they shouldn't be given equal access.

"When you're looking at sharing, that means sharing responsibility," said Blair. "Within the financing structure, the affordable unit can't afford to participate in the ongoing maintenance on the other side ... We'll continue to look, but we can't make a statement on that today."

Following a comment from Blair that

## Proposed Site Design



GRAPHIC CONTRIBUTED

there would be "issues" with allowing the East Building residents access to the pool, Chapman responded that these "issues" were not insurmountable.

"There's no issue with the playground; that's a shared resource," said Chapman. "The bigger issue is something we've seen in the news: we have developments with mixed use housing where folks are treated differently. We want to make sure there's full equity there."

Blair's insistence that there could be liability issues also seemed to ring hollow for City Council members.

"Whether it's a waiver or a pass, there's a way to get past the [liability issues]," said Chapman. "The sharing of amenities is a very small thing, in terms of everything else you guys are putting into this, and we don't want to spoil that."

"There are ways to have a pass and waive one's liability concerns, we do that all the time at various pools," said Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg. "I think it would be better relations across both buildings if you shared amenities. Just have people sign a waiver, it's not that complicated. There aren't that many people, between these two

buildings, that a pool can't sustain [their numbers]."

Blair answered that the pool wouldn't be large enough for both complexes.

"This is not an Olympic size pool, it's a four-foot pool," said Blair. "It is not a country club swimming pool; it is a very small pool for laps."

Silberberg asked for the dimensions of the pool.

"Probably about 60 feet," said Blair. "Forty by 60."

"Forty by 60? And that's not considered a large pool?" Silberberg asked. When Blair answered with the four-foot depth again, Silberberg responded, "It has nothing to do with the depth. With all due respect, that's a pretty large pool ... that could accommodate both buildings just fine. You want to share certain amenities but not others. It's not just haves and have-nots, it's separate but equal, and that's going down a road I can't [support]."

Pepper expressed concerns that the separation of the pools would reinforce classism at a very young age.

"Even if it's just four-feet deep, it's water. Kids are going to see other kids in it, even

if all they're doing is dogpaddling, but they're going to want it," said Pepper. "You have to share. Whatever language gets crafted here, it can't just be 'yeah, we'll make an effort'," Pepper added a heavy note of sarcasm to the last comment, "it has to be a very serious effort, and I'd surely like to hear what comes of this if we pass it."

Euille agreed that, while he liked the project, the have vs have-not aspect was troubling. He also expressed concerns that the presentation the AHC had initially given on the project was outdated and didn't contain the information about the pool's exclusivity.

In the final statements on the issue, Chapman disclosed that the pool issue struck a very personal note for him.

"I grew up in a mixed use development, and everyone had access to one pool," said Chapman. "I made friends with kids on totally different economic levels. It's a great opportunity to bring that community together. This should have been a very common sense piece to this. It should have been something taken into account. While I want to support this project, if it comes back that we've given public money to perpetuate inequality between the folks in our community, that's going to be a problem. I can't vote for this until there's some clarity in where this is going."

In response to the criticisms, McIlvaine noted that the likely outcome of the review will be the removal of the pool entirely, which Blair said the developers had already been considering given the \$70,000 annual cost of maintaining pools at their other locations.

In an amendment to the approval of the plan change and the special use permit, the City Council requested that staff and the applicant work together to try and find a way to make the pool a shared resource and to present their findings to the council before the project received the city loan. With the amendment, the plan change and special use permit was passed with a vote of four in favor and two, Chapman and Silberberg, abstaining.

# T.C. Williams Students Take Aim at New Disciplinary Policy

FROM PAGE 1

final grade and keeping you from graduating."

According to Nicolette Thomas, also a student at TC, the rule was brought about as a result of seniors who would work the first two quarters of the year and then not show up for the second half of the year because their aggregate score would still allow them to pass. TC Principal Suzanne Maxey confirmed that the school policy is a deterrent against seniors who, in the past, have taken advantage of their good grades in the first two quarters to skip the second half of the school year.

"We had assemblies and explained what we were trying to counteract," said Maxey. "We want you learning every quarter until the last day ... Do the right thing so we don't have to penalize you."

Maxey also added that, while the deter-

rent may sound harsh, it is also not a decision taken lightly.

"Teachers have to prove their case with attendance records, and all cases are appealed directly to the principal's office," said Maxey. "No one has turned a form in to me. No one has invoked this rule."

Maxey acknowledged, however, that since this is the first year of the rule's implementation it could be invoked closer to the end of the school year.

However, to Thomas and other students with Alexandria's Tenants and Workers United, the rule is symptomatic of a larger issue with the school's focus on punitive, rather than restorative, justice.

"Kids are kicked out because the administration doesn't want to take the time to communicate," said TC student Alieu Rahim. "It takes too much time. More time is dedicated to 'successful' kids who are

easier to work with than those who need a ground up approach."

For TC student and Tenants and Workers United member Ana Diaz, the problem seems to start at an early age and TC does little to correct that. Diaz described a student who used to be a part of their group before he moved. He was young, in fifth grade, and his mother wanted him to be a part of the group. He was scared and anti-social, but when he finally opened up to the group he told them he was kicked out of Mount Vernon Elementary School for bringing a water gun to class.

"We asked him why he did it. He shrugged and said 'I'm just a bad kid,'" Diaz remembered. "They internalize that negativity they hear in the classrooms and think 'that's what I'm supposed to be', and by the time you're in high school you don't even question that."

According to Maxey, of the 3,500 students

at the High School, only 57 were suspended.

"They want to make a big case that we suspend a lot," said Maxey, "but the data doesn't support that. We don't suspend based on race, we suspend based on actions."

Whenever questioned on whether race is a factor in punishments at TC, there's one indisputable figure cited by the students. According to an Oct. 22 school performance update, while black male students comprised only 18 percent of the total student population, they received 41 percent of all short term suspensions. Additionally, 12 percent of African-American students and nearly 20 percent of Hispanic students drop out of TC.

According to Julie Crawford, executive director of the Office of Alternative Programs and Equity, said the numbers reflect

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## Concern over Suspension Rates

FROM PAGE 8

a larger problem in public high schools nationwide. Crawford was previously principal of the Juvenile Detention Center in Alexandria and says she's seen, first hand, the effects of continuous punitive action against students.

"Unfortunately, it is a national trend that students of color, particularly males, are suspended or expelled at a much higher rate," said Crawford. "We do see parallels to the national trend in our schools and we track that as a school priority."

Both Crawford and students from Tenants and Workers United expressed support for a "restorative justice" model at TC. According to Diaz, restorative justice is about emphasizing greater understanding and communication between students and teachers. Crawford says the shift towards a restorative justice program involves more counseling for students to help them understand their behavior and more training for administrators on positive options before resorting to suspension.

Students with Tenants and Workers United say they haven't seen any notable change for the better in the school's disciplinary actions. Crawford says this accusation is fair, but asks students to be patient as the program is still in early in its implementation.

"This year, restorative justice has been

piloted in programs, but it's not everywhere," said Crawford. "Next year, they're looking into expansion of the restorative justice program. To make any type of program successful, we need everyone involved to understand the philosophy of healing and growth. Some students may not have had extensive exposure, but we're working on that for next year."

A lot of the problems stem from racial and cultural divides students say are still very present at the school. The students describe cultural integration at TC mostly as an illusion. Black and Hispanic students recall, during the yearbook photo sessions, being called over to the "Fighting Titans" pep squad and the Red Cross club to be in the picture and make the predominantly white organizations look more diverse. "T.C. Williams is diverse, but it's not inclusive," said TC student Haydi Torres. "When you have no cultural understanding, there is conflict."

Crawford agreed that, for restorative justice to be successful, the students and administration at the school need to have open dialogues on culture and race at the school.

"Make sure we have teachers and staff who are cultural competent and understand the learners that are in front of them," said Crawford. "That's not something you're ever done with. Cultural competency is having courageous conversations about race. You have to have the discussion."

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# OPINION

## No Justification for Secrecy, Delay on Geer Shooting

Everything about this case erodes public trust and demonstrates police departments should not be allowed to apply “blanket” exemptions to release of information.

**A**fter waiting 17 months for any information about the investigation into the shooting death of John Geer, the information released last week is deeply troubling.

Fairfax County Police officer Adam D. Torres shot and killed John Geer of Springfield inside the doorway of his own home in Springfield on Aug. 29, 2013. Police were called to Geer's home following Geer's argument with his longtime partner. Police spoke with him for more than half an hour while he stood in his doorway, unarmed, with his hands raised and resting on the frame. As he began to lower his hands, by all accounts still at shoulder level, he was shot in the chest and died in his house without receiving medical attention.

It took more than 16 months, a \$12 million civil suit by Geer's family and a court order to get the first tiny bit of information on the shooting, which came earlier this month when police named the officer who fired the shot that killed Geer.

On Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, in response to a court order, Fairfax County released more than 10,000 pages of documents about the shooting and the investigation.

We now know that investigators learned on the same day Geer died, Aug. 29, 2013, that at least five witnesses including the police officer actually talking to Geer at the instant he

was shot, disputed Torres's version of events. Torres said Geer suddenly dropped his hands to his waist; none of the other witnesses saw Geer's hands move below his head.

On the day of the shooting, investigators and prosecutors had compelling information to take to a grand jury. Instead, after a long period of silence, obstruction and obfuscation, the investigation was turned over to the Justice Department, where there is no timetable for resolution (and no adequate explanation for punting the investigation to the feds).

Without the Geer family lawsuit and the court order to turn over documents as part of discovery, the public might never know what really happened that day.

The question of accountability for what happened remains.

As we have said many times, the problem goes beyond Fairfax County, and beyond police shootings.

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should.

It's past time for change.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Making Meaningful Commitments

To the Editor:

The proposed expansion of the Woodbine

nursing home facility has recently become another hot topic within the city as it reaches the final stages of city planning review and moves towards the City Council for approval. Over the past two years there have been many compromises by both the developer and the city

planners as this project moves to maturity. The revised size of the building, location and number of parking spaces has been addressed in a meaningful way though not always to the satisfaction of all involved. The loss of the Tree Protection Easement is regretful when easements such as these are established in perpetuity to protect trees or blocks of woodland. In addition, before the council passes judgment, work needs to be done to address the traffic safety issue. The traffic flowing in and out of Woodbine at Melrose is already a dangerous choke point on King Street, and east bound traffic trying to turn into the facility from the only through lane on King Street is already a serious hazard.

But while debating those points, we cannot lose track of our citizens who will need this memory care facility, particularly the low income clients for which Woodbine has agreed to set aside two beds. Their offer of 40 percent subsidy on two memory care beds for a period of 20 years sounds generous on the surface, and has been often cited by the project's supporters as a key reason for moving forward. At the same time, in evaluating the real terms and conditions of this offer, it is a hollow gesture.

It concerns me that obtaining two subsidized (40 percent price reduction) beds in the facility for low income occupants once the facility

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24



# 520

days

**It took a court order and 520 days after Fairfax County police officer Adam D. Torres shot and killed John Geer of Springfield for basic information about what happened that day to be released. The public now knows what investigators learned on the same day Geer died, Aug. 29, 2013, that at least five witnesses including the police officer actually talking to Geer at the instant he was shot, disputed Torres's version of events. Torres said Geer suddenly dropped his hands to his waist; none of the other witnesses saw Geer's hands move below his head.**

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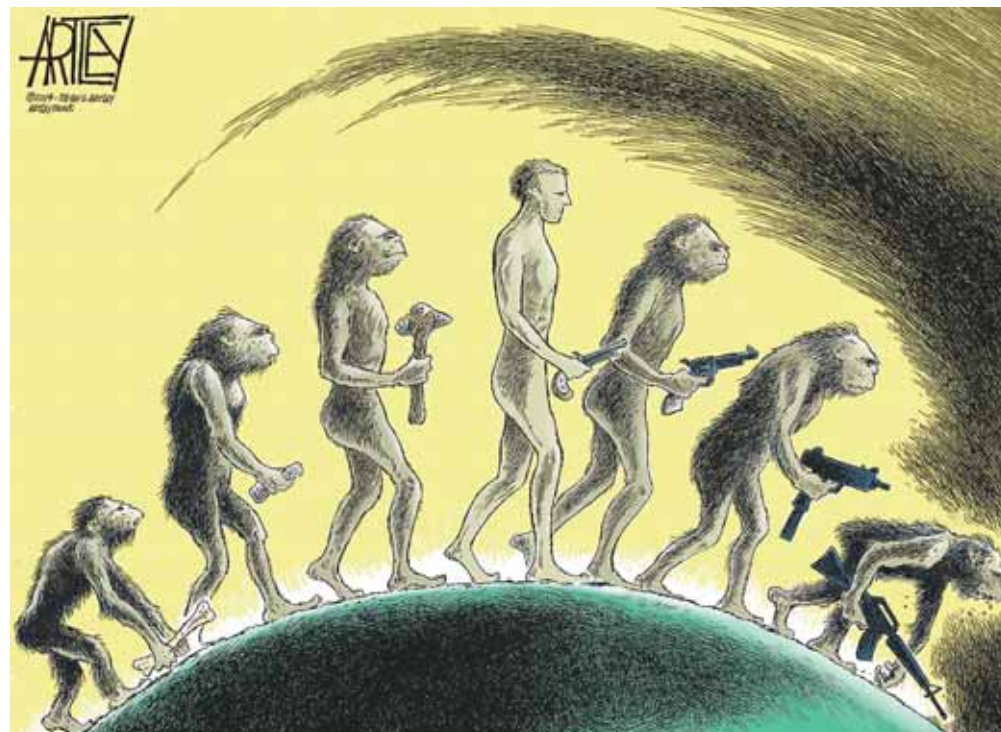
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By STEVEN G. ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET



## OPINION

# State Fails School Funding

BY ROB KRUPICKA  
STATE DELEGATE (D-45)



**M**y bill to reduce the use of high stakes testing in high school and to create more alternatives for schools so students can demonstrate they have mastered content was combined with three others on the same topic this past week. This bill is an outgrowth of the SOL Reform passed last session and would require the Board of

### COMMENTARY

Education to establish guidelines for alternative assessments that students could take in lieu of the corresponding Standards of Learning assessment. Alternative assessments allow students to better demonstrate their learning comprehension and give schools a more complete understanding on student achievement, and I've been happy to see both Democrats and Republicans work together to move this issue for-

ward. There has been a lot of great bipartisan work this year on education reform. It is encouraging to see members working across the aisle to help implement the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee's Agenda. From using alternative assessments, to expedited retakes, to reassessing our state's school accreditation system, the bills making their way through the legislature will make significant improvements to Virginia's schools.

However, the bipartisan reform agenda ignores one of the biggest issues in education — funding. Our schools need money. State school funding per pupil is down \$941 — roughly 16.3 percent compared to 2009, after adjusting for

SEE STATE NEEDS, PAGE 17



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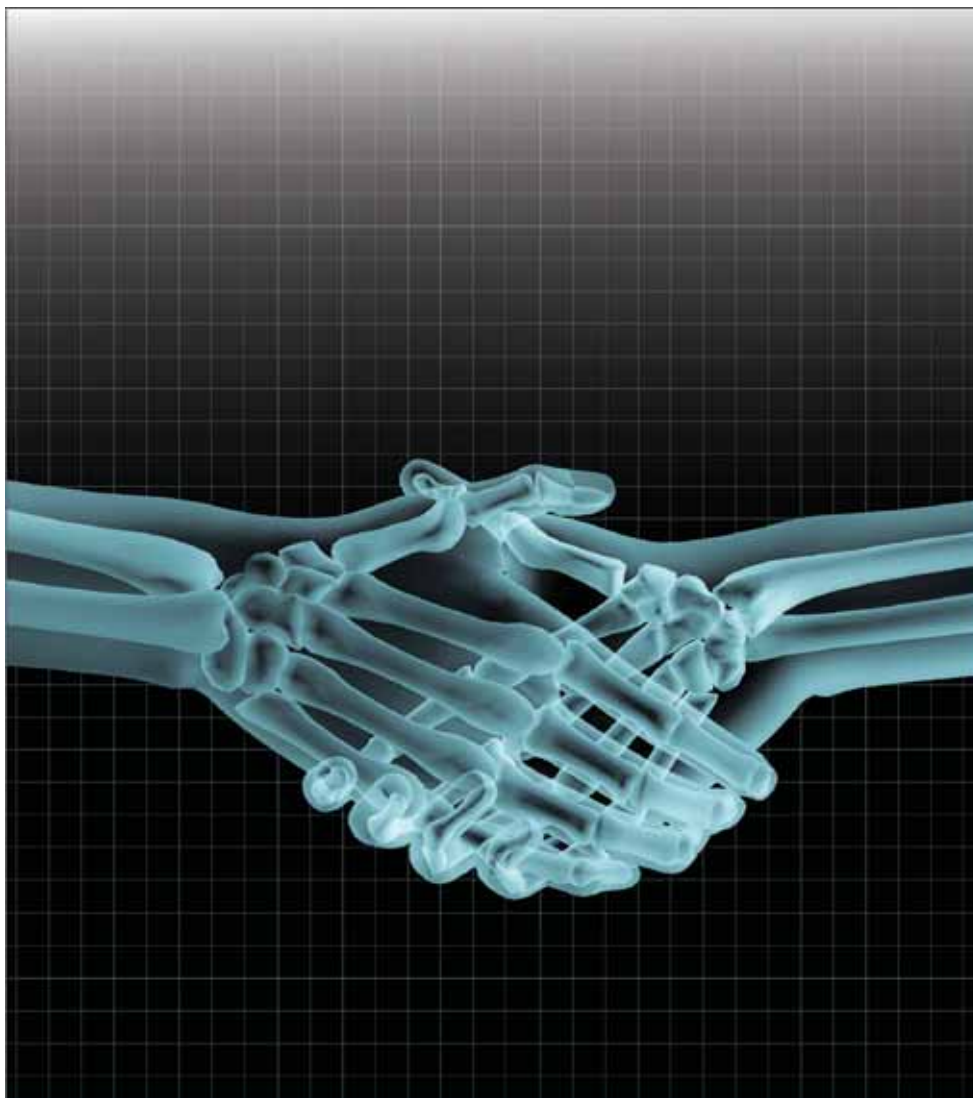


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## Veteran's Memory

FROM PAGE 5

their idea. The Mount Vernon-Lee Citizens Association became strong supporters of the drive for a new hospital and after much debate, the Fairfax County government approved the creation of a new hospital to be built in the Mount Vernon district.

"That was also the start of many meetings and long hours when we tried to plan a hospital and hold our families and practices together," said Wineland, by now a father of four.

Wineland's efforts came to fruition on Oct. 26, 1976, when Mount Vernon Hospital opened its doors. The next day he was named the first president of the medical staff. Throughout this time, Wineland also made medical mission trips to treat children in Algiers and Honduras.

The couple's love of exotic travel took the family all over

the world, including a trip to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

"Although I am still active, some things are different than they used to be," said Wineland, who will turn 91 in July. "But Stuart and I have had full lives and aim to enjoy watching the progress of our family as long as the Lord allows."

Still known to many as "Dr. Bob," Wineland remains an active member of the Alexandria Rotary Club and shared his WWII recollections with club members Tom Roberts and Drew Carroll, whose fathers also fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

"I was very lucky to get out," Wineland said. "As I look back, it was a profound learning experience. I saw the collapse of an empire and people reacting under every imaginable situation. The war left me all the more convinced that I wanted to go into medicine and help people."

## Keeping King's Spirit Alive

### Dyson speaks at Alfred Street Baptist Church.

BY MARISSA BEALE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Last month, MSNBC political analyst Dr. Michael Eric Dyson led discussions concerning race and religion in America at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria. Dyson, a professor at Georgetown University, is also a Baptist preacher.

The sanctuary was packed as members of the church gathered to hear from him.

"He spoke once at my college," said Tenai Merritt, a student at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga. "I learn something new every time I hear him speak."

In the first part of his discussion, Dyson spoke about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his life and the legacy he left behind. He commented on society's perception of crimes against black males, criticizing the view that victims have to be perfect to be defended.

"Dr. King used his intellect to combat racism and to combat the order of American democracy," said Dyson. "Dr. King lived in a complete and total commitment to his community, the moral and social contract." In the second part of the discussion, he spoke about "Selma," the 2014 film portraying the 1965 Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala. In December 2014, hundreds of young adult mem-



BY MARISSA BEALE/GAZETTE PACKET

**The Rev. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson led the Saturday Bible by Alfred Street Baptist twice in January, discussing race and religion in America.**

bers of Alfred Street marched in a peaceful against court rulings where police officers were not indicted for their aggression against black males.

"If you're out protesting you need to be serious, because those people were serious," said Merritt, referring to those who marched from Selma to Montgomery. "In 'Selma' Dr. King is humanized. He was just 20 and going through some of the same struggles we are."

Similarities were drawn between King's actions in the 1960s and the Rev. Al Sharpton's actions today. "Do we believe in top-down leaders or in grassroots organizers? And then, how do we tell the story?" asked Dyson.

His piece "Where Do We Go After Ferguson?" appeared in the New York Times in November 2014.

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# Too Poor for Benefits

New advisory panel tackles lack of healthcare options for Alexandrians.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

An estimated 5,000 people living in Alexandria are without access to healthcare. Without any assistance from the state, the struggle for many Alexandrians has potential to grow into a city-wide moral and financial crisis. In response, Mayor William Euille has established a Special Advisory Panel on the Health Care Needs of the Uninsured.

"The Virginia Assembly refused to address this, so now 270,000 Virginians are too poor for the Affordable Care act and too rich for Medicaid," said Committee Chairman Dan Hawkins. "Many of these people are too poor to receive benefits .... Our task is to grapple with that in a feasible and affordable way."

Tuesday, Feb. 3 in the City Council Workroom was the committee's second meeting. So far, the panel is the only one of its kind in Virginia dedicated to finding a local solution to the statewide lack of healthcare funding.

"We just started, and we're struggling to define the problem," Hawkins said, but everyone on the committee seems to agree, at least, that there is a problem. "There is a huge body of data that shows the poor lack access to care, they get sicker, and cost more to care for."

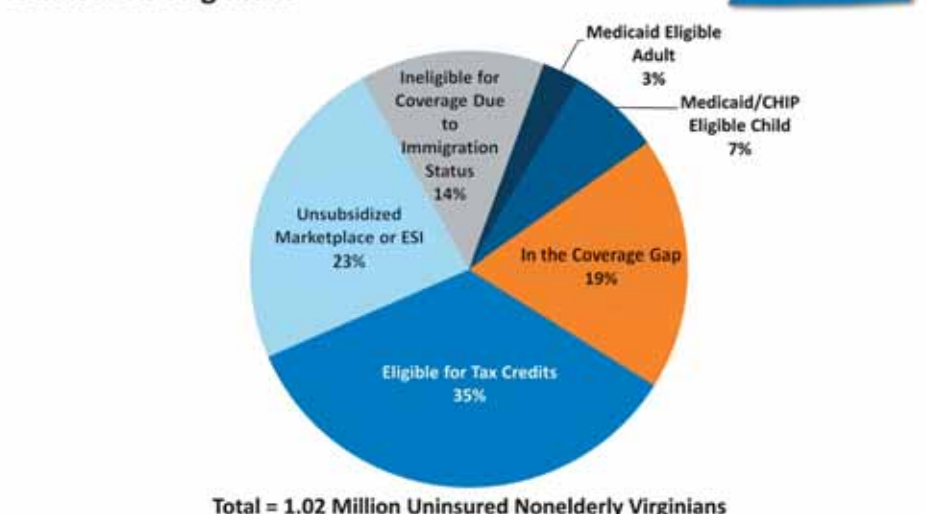
Part of the frustrations encountered by the committee is that federal tax dollars go to support comprehensive healthcare programs in other states while Virginia has no such program. For Richard Merritt, a member of the panel, that means watching as people with the same level of poverty as many Alexandrians are treated across the Potomac in Maryland and Washington D.C.

For Hawkins, it's more than a moral problem for the city, it is very quickly becoming an economic one.

"When folks don't get access to care, like regular checkups or screenings, they end up costing more money in the emergency room," said Hawkins, quoting a 1972 oil filter advertisement "You can pay me now, or you can pay me later."

Figure 2

## Eligibility for Coverage as of 2014 Among Currently Uninsured Virginians



Total = 1.02 Million Uninsured Nonelderly Virginians

Notes: Shares may not sum to 100% due to rounding. People who have an affordable offer of coverage through their employer or other source of public coverage (such as Medicare or CHAMPUS) are ineligible for tax credits. Unauthorized immigrants are ineligible for either Medicaid/CHIP or Marketplace coverage.

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis based on 2014 Medicaid eligibility levels and 2012-2013 Current Population Survey.



GRAPHIC CONTRIBUTED

As the group begins to look for solutions to the uninsured crisis, one of the main challenges will be strict resource limitations. With the city anticipating a budget shortfall to work around, Hawkins is uncertain about the City Council's potential willingness to fund a new program. But sooner or later, Hawkins says, it's a cost the city is going to face. According to Hawkins, the longer it takes to address that, the more costly it will be.

One of the panel specialists, Mary Anne Weber, said one of the other problems the committee is likely to face is a lack of medical care available, particularly for those suffering from mental health issues.

"There are not enough hospital beds in communities, and these people shouldn't have to be shipped off to state institutions," said Weber. "All of the data we have says people recover better in their own communities."

Basim Khan, the interim executive director and medical director for Neighborhood Health, formerly Alexandria Neighborhood

Health Services Inc., said another major problem the group will have to contend with is a lack of specialty care. Finding specialty care for many chronic diseases can already be difficult. For those without insurance, it can be almost impossible.

"Patients without insurance will have to go to the University of Virginia or Richmond for specialty care," said Khan. "For people working daily, that's a big cost."

Merritt, former chair of the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission, said the first step in helping to secure resources to combat the lack of healthcare is dispelling the untrue assumptions about Alexandria's uninsured.

"There are myths about who the uninsured are," said Merritt, primarily that those who are uninsured are also unemployed. "Seventy percent of people who are uninsured are working either part or full time and their employer either can't or won't provide them health care benefits."

The second myth, Merritt said, is that Alexandria's "strong safety net" will take

care of those with medical issues who don't have insurance.

"We do have a strong safety net," said Merritt, "but that doesn't provide at all for primary or specialty care."

After the panel argues for whatever resources they can get from the city, Hawkins says they'll be put in the uncomfortable position of establishing priorities within the uninsured community.

"We'll take those at highest risk, namely with more than one disease, and we'll look for the highest number of chronic conditions," said Hawkins, noting that diabetes and high blood pressure can often be accompanied by depression, and vice versa. Weber added that depression medicine can sometimes directly lead to diabetes or high blood pressure.

But there is also a careful balance the group will have to strike in its prioritization. The group will also have to provide some level of regular care to those at low risk in the community to keep them from becoming high risk patients.

A few programs already exist in Virginia to help those in need of medical attention. One, the Governor's Access Plan (GAP), is a pilot project for those suffering from serious mental illnesses that gets health care access to those who don't otherwise qualify for Medicaid. To receive GAP benefits, an adult citizen must be between 21 and 64 with no health insurance, a household below 100 percent of federal poverty level (\$11,670 per year for a single adult) who is no longer residing in a long term care, mental health, or penal facility. Applicants must also go through a screening process to meet the criteria for serious mental illnesses.

Enroll Virginia also helps local citizens discover if they qualify for healthcare coverage and, if they don't, where they can go for treatment. Enroll Virginia assists all uninsured individuals enroll in affordable health insurance programs for free and provides in-person assistance with enrollment at businesses and community organizations. The deadline for special enrollment to receive tax credits is Feb. 15.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

### ARTS PROGRAM GRANTS

**The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts** is accepting applications for Arts Program Grants. Grant funds are available to eligible arts organizations and individual artists for operations, programs and special projects that occur in Alexandria between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. The Office of the Arts will conduct a series of grant workshops and webinars to assist interested applicants in preparing their grant applications. Online application

forms, instructions, and frequently asked questions for all grant programs are available online at [www.alexandriava.gov/arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/arts). Online applications are due by Friday, Feb. 28.

### FEB. 1-APRIL 15

**Free Tax Preparation.** Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. For taxpayers with low and middle income. All ages, with special attention to seniors. Federal and Virginia tax returns prepared and electronically filed by IRS-certified volunteers. Tax questions can be answered. Bring your photo ID(s), Social Security Card(s), tax documents, and your prior year tax return.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 5

**Application Deadline.** The Alexandria Marketing Fund is a grant program that provides seed money in the form of matching funds for new and innovative marketing programs. Applications are now being accepted; applicants must review the Marketing Fund website and online application form before applying for funding. Visit [alexandriava.gov/MarketingFund](http://alexandriava.gov/MarketingFund) or contact Andrea Blackford at 703-746-3959 or [andrea.blackford@alexandriava.gov](mailto:andrea.blackford@alexandriava.gov).  
**Budget Priorities.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lee Center located at 1108 Jefferson St. Join City leaders to learn about the budget development process and provide input on where the City should invest resources to best achieve its FY 2016 priorities. This meeting will feature representatives from: Alexandria

Economic Development Partnership, Department of Code Administration, Office of Historic Alexandria, Office of Housing, Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Project Implantation, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, and Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (Park Operations).

**Public Information Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. in City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St., Alexandria. Learn about the City's Combined Sewer System and the upcoming plan to meet new water quality regulations and to reduce the impacts of Combined Sewer Overflows on receiving waterways. Residents are invited to attend and give written or oral comments at the public meeting. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Sewers](http://alexandriava.gov/Sewers) or contact Erin Bevis-Carver at [Erin.BevisCarver@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Erin.BevisCarver@alexandriava.gov).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 6

**Early Closing.** 6 p.m. Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Community Centers will close at 6 p.m. for staff training. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation) or call 703-746-5414.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 7

**Planning a Vegetable Garden.** 9:30-11 a.m. at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington. VCE Master Gardeners of Arlington/Alexandria will present a workshop on Planning the Vegetable Garden. Intended for the beginner vegetable gardener, with emphasis on what works well in the Northern Virginia area and best bets for new gardeners. Participants will have an

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# BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 14

opportunity to map out their gardens. Free and open to the public, advance registration is requested at [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org). Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgaralex@gmail.com](mailto:mgaralex@gmail.com) for more.

**Homebuyer Training Class.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the offices of Union Mortgage Group, 320 King St., Suite 200, Alexandria. The City of Alexandria is offering monthly pre-purchase homebuyer training classes to help buyers learn the key concepts of the home buying process. To register, contact the Office of Housing at 703-746-4990 or call Oscar Bermudez at 202-667-7006, ext. 230, email [oscarbermudez@housingetc.org](mailto:oscarbermudez@housingetc.org).

**Genealogy Lecture.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Uncover the story of African Americans who migrated to Alexandria, Virginia during the Civil War, while learning more about a number of local families. \$5. Call 703-746-4356.

## FEB. 7-APRIL 15

**Free Tax Preparation.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon; Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. at 2525 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The City of Alexandria is offering free tax preparation to qualifying residents. Taxpayers are eligible if their income is below approximately \$35,000 for individuals and \$53,000 for families. Volunteers from Community Tax Aid, Inc. will ensure that taxpayers apply for all applicable credits and deductions. The following documentation is required: Social Security cards for each family member; a photo ID for the taxpayer(s); dependents' income documents; W-2 forms and other income records such as Social Security, bank interest or SSI; receipts or records for expenses such as child care and education; Form 1095-A if you purchased health insurance through the marketplace; and if possible, a copy of last year's tax return. People will be seen on a first come, first served basis. For further information, to request a disability accommodation or to receive materials in an alternative format, contact Esperita Bullard at 703-746-6070.

## MONDAY/FEB. 9

**Budget Priorities.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lee Center located at 1108 Jefferson St. Join City leaders to learn about the budget development process and provide input on where the City should invest resources to best achieve its FY 2016 priorities. This meeting will feature representatives from: Department of

Community and Human Services, Library, and Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (Recreation and Cultural Activities).

**Community Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. The meeting will be preceded by an open house at 6:30. The fifth Community Meeting of the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan will feature an activity on a refined land use concept for the plan area. Members of the community are encouraged to attend and participate. Contact Radhika Mohan at 703-746-3850 or [radhika.mohan@alexandriava.gov](mailto:radhika.mohan@alexandriava.gov) and visit the project website at [www.alexandriava.gov/eisenhowerwest](http://www.alexandriava.gov/eisenhowerwest).

## MONDAY/FEB. 9, WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

**Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Class.** 4-8 p.m. 4480 King St., Room 514, Alexandria. Demonstrates the initial help given to a person showing signs of mental illness or a mental health crisis. The eight-hour course teaches risk factors, warning signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use disorders; the effects of the illnesses and an overview of treatments; and a five-step action plan for helping someone with symptoms. Youth MHFA is for adults who work with children and teens. Contact Donielle Marshall at 703-746-3523 or [donielle.marshall@alexandria.gov](mailto:donielle.marshall@alexandria.gov). Register at [survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/MHFARegistration](http://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/MHFARegistration)

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

**Speakers Series.** 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Beatley Central Library, 5006 Duke St., Alexandria. Senior Services of Alexandria's Speaker Series presents "Travel — Local and Long Distance." Local experts will talk about local transportation options for seniors and what groups specialize in leisure travel for seniors both domestic and abroad. Open to the public, free and light refreshments will be served. To register go to [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) or call 703-836-4414, ext 10.

**George Washington Lecture.** 7 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Join Dr. Peter Henriques, Professor Emeritus of History from GMU, as he presents America's Atlas. Henriques examines the variety of elements that came together to produce the amazing leader that George Washington was. The lecture will focus primarily on the man rather than on what he accomplished. \$10-\$12. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org). Tickets at 703-746-4242 or [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

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## OPINION

# Shelter Vet's Patients Are City's Ailing Animals

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET  
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

**S**he was a short-haired cat called Luna, and she was only one year old. After falling or jumping from her owner's balcony in Alexandria she may have landed on all four paws — but one of her leg bones was severely fractured in the process.

Luna's owners couldn't afford costly surgery to save her. But instead of having her euthanized, they surrendered her to the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, which is operated by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA).

Enter Dr. Kaci Angelone. The shelter's only staff veterinarian, Dr. Angelone, 35, oversees the health of all animals who make their way to the shelter. That can mean a pet too sick for an owner to manage — even one with a seemingly minor skin problem — or an injured stray brought in from the streets.

"Luna's owner did the right thing," Dr. Angelone said. "We are a resource for Alexandrians. We'd rather have the animal brought to us than have it stay in a home suffering."

Just about every animal at the shelter, even the occasional wild creature, meets Dr. Angelone, sooner or later. All animals seven years or older get blood tests to check the function of vital organs such as liver and

kidneys. Many animals need fecal-sample testing for internal parasites.

If illness is found, the animal joins Dr. Angelone's case list, and she works with other staff members to monitor their progress daily. Eight to 10 "visiting vets" come by regularly to help shoulder the caseload and offer opinions on tough cases. And Dr. Angelone orders hundreds of surgeries annually, such as spaying and neutering, at local veterinary clinics and other shelters, all at the AWLA's expense.

A 2-year-old pit bull called Moe created a significant medical challenge for the shelter. Hit by a car, his owners had taken him to an emergency veterinary hospital, where they were told his injuries were quite severe and treatment would be expensive. Desperate to help their dog, the owners turned to the Vola Lawson shelter.

"I had never managed a case with such severe injuries," Dr. Angelone said. "His skin had been completely torn off the bones of his back legs." Months of treatment, especially painful changing of bandages, were involved in order for the skin to grow back. "Moe never complained — he was so stoic and such a great dog," Dr. Angelone recalled. "No matter what was happening to



PHOTOS BY SHELLEY CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Dr. Kaci Angelone examines a beagle called Freda at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter.**

him, he greeted us every day with a wagging tail." The new, improved Moe has been adopted.

Dr. Angelone's passion for veterinary medicine surfaced in kindergarten, when she declared she wanted to become a vet. After earning a doctor of veterinary medicine degree at Iowa State University, she began to focus on shelter medicine. She likes the AWLA's philosophy: Use the limited resources judiciously with one main goal — getting animals adopted.

That approach worked for Luna, the white-and-black-spotted cat with the shattered leg bone. Amputation of the leg was the only recourse, Dr. Angelone says, and Luna responded beautifully to the surgery,



**A domestic long-haired cat called Topanga sits patiently as veterinarian Kaci Angelone checks her out.**

purring her way through exams. After a few weeks' recovery in foster care, her caretakers have invited her to stay — permanently.

*Note: Readers interested in helping Alexandria animals with serious medical conditions can contribute to the AWLA's "Sarah's Fund." Animals are available for adoption at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22304. Visit [www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org) or call 703-746-4774.*

# Gun Violence, Monkeys and Tax Loopholes

BY ADAM P. EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

**T**hanks to all who attended my recent legislative Town Hall Meetings in Arlington and Lee District. We discussed issues including the budget, ethics reforms, gun safety, homelessness among our veterans, and transportation improvements on Route 1. Other topics that came up ranged from in-state tuition rates for students granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status by the federal government to how to best prepare teachers educating children with dyslexia.

If you were unable to join us, I hope to see you Saturday, Feb. 14 from 10:30 a.m. — noon at the Mount Vernon Government Center with state Sen. Toddy Puller and Del. Scott Surovell; or from 2:30 - 4 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center in Old Town Alexandria with Del. Rob Krupicka.

Many of my colleagues and I are greatly concerned with how we can stem the tide of preventable gun violence. I am a founding member of a newly formed organization, American State Legislators For Gun Violence Prevention. We have spent a great deal of time researching best practices for reducing preventable gun deaths.



## COMMENTARY

To that end, I introduced two gun safety bills this year. The first would have required universal background checks to close the "gun-show loophole;" prohibited the use of a gun by a person under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and repealed the right for concealed carry permit holders to

openly carry semi-automatic weapons with large capacity ammunition clips in our urban centers including Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax. Unfortunately the Senate Courts of Justice Committee defeated the bill.

For reasons beyond my comprehension, the committee also defeated my bill that would have held adults accountable if they allow children aged 4 and younger to hold or use a gun. I was shocked when a National Rifle Association representative testified that some toddlers may be ready for firearms training.

My proposal to reestablish a Virginia Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking passed its first hurdle, winning approval from the Rules Committee and now awaits funding by the Finance Committee.

For years I have worked to address the tragic crime of human trafficking. While

many think of trafficking as just an international issue, it often occurs domestically entrapping both immigrants and citizens. Hard as it is to believe, there have even been gang-operated trafficking rings in our area; Fairfax girls were trafficked while still enrolled in high school and pimps offered young girls for prostitution door-to-door along part of Columbia Pike in Arlington.

The Commission would study human trafficking in the Commonwealth, provide services to victims, and develop strategies to fight the scourge of modern day slavery.

One significant tax loophole that I am working with the Governor to close deals with Online Travel Companies (OTCs) like Expedia.com and Hotels.com to remit the full retail tax on hotel rooms they sell. Currently, OTCs only remit taxes on the wholesale price that they pay for the room. It is unfair to consumers for OTCs not to pay the same amount as those who book directly through brick and mortar hotels. Supporters of my bill include the Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association as well as many regional hotel associations and visitors bureaus. If OTCs were paying their fair share, projections show the Commonwealth would generate \$5.98 million in Fiscal Year 2016 and \$6.74 million in Fiscal Year 2017 in state and local revenue, which would be used to promote regional tourism.

As a member of the Agriculture, Conser-

vation, and Natural Resources Committee, a number of issues dealing with the care and treatment of animals have come before me. One important piece of legislation introduced by Sen. William Stanley (SB1001) would require pet shops to acquire their dogs through humane societies, animal shelters, and only those breeders who meet ethical qualifications. This will effectively stop "puppy mills," where profits are prioritized over the humane treatment of animals. I supported this legislation both in committee as well as on the floor of the Senate where the bill passed unanimously.

Another bill introduced by Sen. Lynwood Lewis (SB1315) would prohibit the possession, sale, transfer, or breeding of primates within the Commonwealth. Currently there is no law regarding possession of monkeys in Virginia and there have been multiple allegations of mistreatment and neglect from both individual owners and for-profit zoos. Exotic animals like monkeys are clearly not meant to be domesticated.

Please take my online survey at [www.AdamEbbin.com/Survey](http://www.AdamEbbin.com/Survey). You can also email me at [district30@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district30@senate.virginia.gov). I am active on Twitter @AdamEbbin and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign](http://www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign). You can sign up for my weekly email updates at [www.AdamEbbin.com](http://www.AdamEbbin.com).

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District.



## George Washington: Whiskey Distiller

One of the little realized facts about George Washington was that in many ways he was a renaissance man. From our history books we know him as the Father of our Country, both in the capacity of his military leadership in the war for independence and victory on the battlefield and in his leadership as the nation's first President who established the organization of the executive branch of government that we have today. However, what is often less remembered, however, is that he also was a surveyor, experimental farmer, and overall innovator that included being a whiskey distiller.

Washington found ways during the colonial period to break the planters' dependence on British factors, that is, business agents who controlled the price paid for tobacco and who supplied all the merchan-

dise they purchased from the colonies to Europe.

The agents' shrewd and overbearing control had the effect of keeping the colonist planters land rich and money poor. Although appearing to have an elegant lifestyle, the colonial planters were kept deeply in debt to these agents. Washington calculated he could break the system that was strangling him and other colonists by shifting his farm from selling tobacco to growing food for the local market. In the 1760s he redirected his efforts to planting more grains, primarily wheat and corn. The switch to grains gave Washington a dependable cash crop, something tobacco did not provide.

In 1769, George Washington built a gristmill that could turn his corn and grain crops into flour, rye, oats, and cornmeal. He also began developing revenue by grinding grain

### George's Parade

The George Washington Birthday Parade will be held Monday, Feb. 16, 1-3 p.m. on a one-mile route through the streets of Old Town Alexandria.

for neighboring farmers. However, he found that trade in the grains was limited by the fact they would spoil if traveling sent over long distances. There was one grain-related product, however, that was of great commercial value and traveled well without spoiling: distilled spirits, such as corn and rye whiskey. So Washington built a distillery next to his gristmill and developed a local trade in whiskey. In its day, it was the largest distillery in America. It also allowed him to break his dependency upon English business agents that controlled foreign

trade.

George Washington's Grist Mill was dismantled in the 1850s. But in 1932, the Commonwealth of Virginia constructed a replica of it after extensive archaeological efforts uncovered the foundation of the original mill.

Virginia operated the mill until 1997 when it was transferred to Mount Vernon Association which, after five years of renovation, returned the mill and distillery to operational status.

George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill is opened to the public where it remains is today at 5513 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria.

*This article was prepared by the George Washington Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (www.gwsar.org), a participant in the George Washington Birthday Parade and related events (http://www.washingtonbirthday.net).*

## Protecting the Frontier During French and Indian War

After the defeat of Major General Braddock in 1755 and the retreat of the British army to the safety of Philadelphia during the early stages of the French and Indian War, the Virginia frontier was laid open to French and Indian attacks. Virginia was not only left to its own defense but was required to send troops to South Carolina. George Washington was charged by the Virginia Governor to recruit militia and organize the defense of 350 miles of frontier, but Virginians were unwilling to leave their homes and families while Indians were on the warpath. All through 1756 and 1757, the war was defensive, taxing Washington's administrative and leadership skills to the extreme.

A change of government in England turned the scales in favor of the British in America. The government British began

sending substantial military forces to America, along with a strong supporting naval force. This brought relief to Washington.

The focus of the next offensive was Fort Duquesne, the primary base of operations on the frontier for the French. In 1758, an expedition under Brigadier General Forbes was organized with Washington in command of 2,000 Virginia troops. There was a shortage of regimental clothing so Washington departed from the standard uniform and outfitted his command in the light Indian hunting garb that proved its utility in the frontier.

Washington urged advancing on Ft. Duquesne via the road built by General Braddock in the previous, failed campaign. Unlike General Braddock, General Forbes respected Washington's advice and opinions

and he even had Washington develop the campaign plan for the 4,000-man army. However, Washington could not control the pace of the expedition. Colonel Bouquet, Forbes' second in command, insisted on a route that required making a new road through the wilderness. The advance was slowed by the blazing of the road and then halted by winter.

At the same time, a campaign led by Colonel Bradstreet with a force of 2,500 colonial troops succeeded in reaching and capturing Fort Ticonderoga from the French. This cut the French lines of communication and support for Fort Duquesne, forcing them to abandon it. Forbes' army eventually reached and took control of the vacated fort. The British renamed it Fort Pitt (later to become Pittsburgh). Thus ended the frontier threat for Virginia and Washington's

role in the War.

Washington learned many lessons from his experience in frontier fighting during the French and Indian War that were put to use during the American Revolution, including:

- ❖ Organization and management of widely scattered units
- ❖ Superior reliance on well-trained troops, over hastily assembled militia
- ❖ Employment of large scale military tactics and strategy
- ❖ Planning for large scale military movements
- ❖ Importance of moving promptly to avoid loss of initiative.

*This article was prepared by the George Washington Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (www.gwsar.org), a participant in the George Washington Birthday Parade and related events (http://www.washingtonbirthday.net).*

## State Needs To Increase Public School Funding

FROM PAGE 11

inflation.

Localities are being asked to take on more and more of the financial burden for schools and many of them do not have the necessary funds. Fairfax County paid 71 percent of the school system's budget for fiscal 2015, while the state contributed just 23 percent. Last year, Fairfax was forced to make \$98 million in cuts.

They had to increase class sizes and eliminated of 724 positions. Fairfax is not alone. Across Virginia, schools are

having to sacrifice; teachers are working multiple jobs just to make ends meet, and schools aren't able to provide the resources and staff necessary to give students the quality education they need to become successful citizens.

The General Assembly must not continue to ignore the dire need for increased state funding for our schools.

As encouraging as the bipartisan work on education has been, there are still important issue where there remain entrenched partisan divides.

I sat on the Health, Welfare and Institutions subcommittee this past week that

heard two bills from my colleagues, Del. Patrick Hope and Del. Ken Plum to expand Medicaid coverage. Both bills were left in subcommittee. It's disappointing to see my Republican colleagues continue to deny coverage to Virginians in need, but we will continue to fight for affordable healthcare for all.

There has been a lot of discussion on the House floor this week about whether or not to continue certain coal tax credits. I had a bill heard in subcommittee this past week that would have repealed the coal tax credits and used the new revenue towards higher education funding, with 50 percent

of the funds being reserved to help students from coal districts go to college to learn the skills needed to succeed in the quickly-changing 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.

While Southwest Virginia's coal industry has a long history, the truth is, the coal industry is in decline and Southwest Virginia is suffering.

As we continue to move towards other forms of energy, it is important that we help the Southwest prepare for a future independent of coal. I know there will be much more discussion on this topic as we continue session.



# ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Chef William Morris sticks the sharpened knife under the skin of a Scottish salmon before making a large filet. It will be cut into squares for the seared Scottish salmon on the evening menu at Vermilion for Restaurant week.**

## Meet the Chef: William Morris at Vermilion

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he sharp tip of the chef's knife slips under the skin of the large Scottish salmon as William Morris, chef at Vermilion, begins to slice the salmon off the back bone. Then he will pinbone it. This fish will be for the seared Scottish salmon offered on the evening menu for Restaurant Week.

"We sell a lot of salmon," he said, "although these are all my favorite dishes. I am passionate about what I do." He says he wakes up in the morning happy to go to work because he likes what he does. "If you don't like it, you're not good at it."

Morris added, "I have no ceiling. I cook what I like and choose what is in season."

"I don't worry about trends," he said. He explains that he has a relationship with a number of local farmers. "It's quite nice knowing where you get it from and I believe in a sustainable ecosystem."

Morris said the chef has the last call on

what is served and can override everybody. "But I try to work so that everyone has a voice. Nobody liked the date ice cream with the goat cheesecake," he said pointing to a dessert plate about to be taken out to a table. "But I did, and now it has caught on."

Morris says he got his work ethic from his parents, but not the cooking. His father was from America and his mother from Chile so they had two different approaches. He said his mother was big on family and eating together but she only cooked when she wanted to.

### IN THE KITCHEN *a monthly series*

"I remember making pancakes when I was about 8. And the first time I made bacon." He said he learned quickly never to cook bacon with his shirt off "because I got burned pretty bad." But Morris declares that bacon is good. "One of my pasty chefs brought me bacon ice cream."

He calls out to one of the kitchen staff, "how much flatbread do we have?"

They are ordering for the next day since everything is ordered fresh each day. His work day starts at 9:30 a.m. and often ends

past 10 p.m. He begins "by saying hello to the guys." Then proceeds to check prior night sales, answer time-sensitive emails, check prep status for lunch and moves into orchestrating the kitchen — calling out orders, what to cook when. He likes to keep it organized and disciplined. New ideas emerge from eating out and observing dishes and techniques at other restaurants, word of mouth, going to farms, networking with other chefs. He says when he is tired of something; it's time to change the menu.

**MORRIS WANTED TO BE** an architect but was much more suited for engineering. He went to school for engineering but decided he didn't want to sit in an office. So he started cooking.

He worked as a local chef in several other restaurants before coming to Vermilion two years ago. "The former chef made it really easy for me. Our cooking styles are totally different but mentally we are in the same place — good food, simple and using the best products."

It is important to Morris to have ties with the local farmers and the community. "I taught a couple of master classes to inner city kids who had never seen a zucchini before. I showed them how to plant seedlings and grow a garden and then make lunch. In the beginning they were a bit stand-offish but they learned that eating this way, instead of McDonalds, would make them healthier and more energetic and for a few dollars they could make something good."

Every other Tuesday he offers a Farm to Table menu for up to six around a communal table. "You won't know what the menu is in advance; it depends on the ingredients. It's fun."

It is 3 p.m., and lunch has ended. The chef has taken a minute to sit before the dinner preparations begin. A couple bundled up against the cold walks out with a big smile of satisfaction.

"That's what makes it all worthwhile," he says. "Eating brings everyone together. That's what it is all about. Creating memories, reliving old ones."

### CALENDAR

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

#### ONGOING

**Mount Vernon Celebrates Black History Month.** Through February at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. In observance of Black History Month, George Washington's Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. Throughout the month, a daily Slave Life at Mount Vernon Tour explores the lives and contributions of the slaves who lived at Mount Vernon at 11:30 a.m. The tour will conclude with a wreath laying at the Slave Memorial site. Black History Month activities are included in admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Tavern Toddlers.** Weekly open

playtime continues every Monday. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, North Royal Street, Alexandria. Caregivers, toddlers (walkers through 3 years) and visiting relatives are welcome to play, read, dance and color in the historic ballroom. No reservations required. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are \$3. A three-visit pass costs \$18. On Monday, Feb. 16 Tavern Toddlers will be closed due to President's Day. [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) or 703-746-4242.

**"The Space Between."** Through Feb. 2 at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Studio 312. Photographer Janet Matthews presents a portfolio of new work in this solo exhibit at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, looking beyond the literal representation of objects to explore their edges and the space that surrounds them. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com) or call 703-683-2205 for more.

**Signature Tour.** 2 p.m. or various other availability. Through Thursday, Feb. 12 at Mount Vernon Mansion,

3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. During a guided exploration tour of the Mansion, visit areas not normally open to guests, including the basement and the third floor where Martha Washington retired after the death of her husband in 1799. \$5/per person in addition to general admission. Hours vary. Visit [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org) for more.

**"Front and Back."** Feb. 11- March 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; 10 a.m.- 9 p.m. second Thursday of the month at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Artists' imagination plays with Items that are different front vs back; right vs left; top vs bottom; inside vs outside; right side up vs up side down; positive space vs negative space. Anything that has two or more sides can be used to show two different visuals. Free admission. See [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

**"Beyond the Board" Art Exhibit.** Through Feb. 22. Prudential PenFed Realty, 4900 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans' presents "Beyond the Board." A portion of artists' sales go to the

PenFed Foundation, supporting active military families, veterans and their families. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/) for more.

**New Exhibit.** Mount Vernon invites visitors to explore George Washington's design for the grounds of his estate, through a new exhibition, "Gardens & Groves: George Washington's Landscape" at Mount Vernon through Jan. 12, 2016. Gardens & Groves is the first museum exhibition to focus specifically on Washington's landmark achievements as a landscape designer combining rarely-seen original documents, artwork, and books with period garden tools, landscape photography, and a scale model of the Mount Vernon estate. Included in admission \$18/adult; \$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Alexandria Cars & Coffee** invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink

coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

**George Washington's Mount Vernon** has joined Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier to expand the "Presidents Passport," Virginia's premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year's program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon request, receive for free Alexandria's "Key to the City" pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria—a \$26 added value. Visit [www.PresPassport.Monticello.org](http://www.PresPassport.Monticello.org) for more.

**Fifty Years of Collecting.** Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum 4301 West Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Dinner for the Washingtons.** Noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour



# ENTERTAINMENT

that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

## Second Thursday Music.

Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

**The Monday Morning Birdwalk** has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

## CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Tavern Toddlers.** Every Monday (except Federal Holidays) 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Join other families with toddlers (walkers through 36 months) to have fun in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Playtime features a craft table, book corner, toys and group dancing. \$7 for a group of three. Visit [www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern](http://www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern) or call 703-746-4242.

**Photography Workshop.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 8-FEB. 22

**Exhibition "Unearthed | Unleashed."** In the Athenaeum Gallery 201 Prince St., Alexandria. An exhibition of the works of Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent. Gessner's mixed media sculptures reference a variety of natural forms. Kent's minimal works with thickly applied paint and wax appear to be a reflection on organic elements and artifacts. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/JAN.22-SUNDAY/MARCH 15

**"Bessie's Blues."** Through March 15 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. "Bessie's Blues," features Bernardine Mitchell, Roz White, TC Carson and a cast of actors and musicians who will tell the story of Bessie Smith through a musical odyssey of the blues. William Knowles is music director. Performances are Wednesday-Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 3 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 3 and 7 p.m. \$55-60. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org) or call 800-494-8497.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 5

**Larry Calvert Cookie Class.** 6-8 p.m. at the Athanaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Join cookie artisan Larry Calvert as he makes hand-decorated sugar cookies. Six different cookies per student will be supplied for creating and taking home. This class

is hands-on training with all supplies included. \$45. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**City of Alexandria Pipes & Drums.** 9:30-10:30 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 6

### "Elements" Art Exhibit Opening Reception.

7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. John Bordner, Kathryn Brown, Michele Reday Cook, Linda Elliff, Kim S. Joy, Marlin Lord and Tamara Wilkerson present artworks which incorporate elements of earth, water, air and fire in materials, media and subject matter. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays 12-9 p.m.; Sundays 12-6 p.m. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 7

**Coin Show.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Springfield American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. The coin show features 50 tables with a variety of coins, currency and numismatic collectables. Prizes to the first 500 visitors. An instruction period is included for those new to collecting. Additionally, there is a raffle for Gold & Silver coins. Visit [www.alexandriacoinclub.com](http://www.alexandriacoinclub.com) or email [boots.barnes1@verizon.net](mailto:boots.barnes1@verizon.net) for more.

**Carlyle's Birthday Celebration.** noon-4 p.m. at 121 N. Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria. Step back in time to the 1770's at one of Alexandria's finest and oldest houses to commemorate the 295th birthday of Alexandria town founder, Col. John Carlyle. Call 703-549-2997 or visit [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com).

**Tea with Martha Washington.** 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Listen to Martha Washington's stories about life at Mount Vernon while enjoying a selection of lite fare prepared by the Mount Vernon Inn. Following tea, enjoy a self-guided exploration of the estate and decorative arts found in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth (12 and under), includes tea, lite fare, and general estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**The Beverly Hillbillies.** 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at [www.mvcct.org](http://www.mvcct.org).

**Love Wins Concert.** 7:30-10 p.m. at Hope United Church of Christ, 6130 Old Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Gay Men's Chorus Rock Creek Singers perform to celebrate equality of love in Virginia. An intimate setting, food, drink, and lots of Valentine's love to share. Tickets available at door, online at [www.hopeucc.org/store](http://www.hopeucc.org/store), call 703-599-7919 or email [humphrey.law@earthlink.net](mailto:humphrey.law@earthlink.net).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 7-8

**The Taste & Style of George Washington.** 2 p.m. Mount Vernon's first fine arts tour offers guests the chance to appreciate a lesser known quality of George Washington - his keen eye. This tour, which includes the mansion as well as the museum, explores Washington's tastes and his selection of decorative fine arts for his home.

This tour is included in admission, visitors must register for a tour ticket online or at the ticket window. Limited capacity. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

## Alice's Restaurant 50th Anniversary Tour.

7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Arlo Guthrie celebrates the event that inspired the song "Alice's Restaurant Massacree." Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 8

**The Navy Concert Band.** 2 p.m. at the Athanaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. The Navy Band Chamber Music Series features musicians from the U.S. Navy Band, the Navy's premier musical organization and one of the top professional wind ensembles in the world. This chamber music recital will feature traditional and modern music for woodwinds and brass. Free. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) for more.

**Walk with Washington Tour.** 2 p.m., at Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, 221 King St., Alexandria. The walk focuses on important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 minutes. Free. Call 703-746-3301 for more.

**The Beverly Hillbillies.** 3 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at [www.mvcct.org](http://www.mvcct.org).

**Winter Warmer Tea with Martha Washington.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, 138 North Royal St., Alexandria. Sip a special blend of tea from Gadsby's Tavern Museum, "take" a cup of American Heritage Chocolate, and eat period-inspired delicacies, both sweet and savory, with your 21st-century friends. A historic guest who will be visit during each tea. \$35 per person all inclusive. Reservations are required. To make reservations and purchase tickets, call 703-746-4242 or visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov). Ticket also includes a tour at 2:15 or 2:45 prior to the tea.

**Philharmonic Performance.** 3 p.m. at The Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G. St. NW, Washington, D.C. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic welcomes pianist Thomas Pandolfi along with trombonist Brian Bourne as featured musicians for their February performances of Franz Liszt's Les Preludes, Brahms' Piano Concerto and the world premiere of Sparkling Dialogue for trombone and strings. Adults, \$20; 18 and younger, free. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org) or call 703-799-8229.

## MONDAYS/FEB. 9 & 23

**The Art of Ballroom Dance.** 7-7:45 and 7:45-8:30 p.m. at the Athanaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Learn the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Meringue, Rumba, Cha-Cha, and Samba, taught by Gary Stephans. Come with or without a partner. Beginning and advanced dancers welcome. Both classes are invited to practice from 8:30-9 p.m. \$15. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) for more or email [garystephans@me.com](mailto:garystephans@me.com) or call 703-505-5998.

## THURSDAY/FEB.12

**Second Thursday Live.** 7 p.m. at the Athanaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. "The Course of True Love Ne'er Did Run Smooth" —

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

Please make reservations early for Valentine's Day

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## Valentine's Day Menu... \$30/person

### Appetizers (choice of one)

- Fried Feta Martini – cubes of feta deep fried and served on a bed of mixed greens and balsamic drizzle
- Calamari Fritti
- Caprese Tower – fresh tomatoes and fresh mozzarella, alternating, drizzled with blood orange olive oil vinaigrette

### Entrées (choice of one, includes salad)

- Beef Medallion – filet mignon sautéed with portabella mushrooms and reduced in a creamy Marsala sauce served with roasted potatoes and vegetable
- Kotopoulo – chicken marinated with rosemary, thyme, oregano slow roasted with lemony flavored potatoes
- Lobster Ravioli – tossed with a lobster base alfredo sauce, covered with mozzarella and baked
- Grilled Swordfish – seared with a citrus marinade and served with sun-dried tomato couscous and vegetable

### Dessert (choice of one)

- Limoncello – lemon sorbet, with lemon liqueur served in a champagne glass
- Hazelnut Ganache – mini hazelnut cake with ganache
- Espresso Crème Brulee – custard tart topped with caramelized sugar & espresso

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# Some Like It Haute

## Boutique District Warehouse Sale set for Feb. 7.

When Elizabeth Todd first opened The Shoe Hive in 2003, she was new to the retail industry and unfamiliar with ordering inventory. By the following year, she had a problem.

"I had too much inventory," Todd said with a laugh. "The Warehouse Sale was a solution to a problem."

Now celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the Old Town Boutique District Warehouse Sale will take place Feb. 7 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We started out at the Campagna Center with about seven vendors and maybe 400 attendees," said Todd, founder of the sale as well as the Old Town Boutique District. "But we quickly outgrew that space and now have more than 1,000 people come through in the course of the day."

Considered the longest running annual designer warehouse sale in the area, the once-a-year shop-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Elizabeth Todd, owner of The Shoe Hive, started the Warehouse Sale as a way to reduce the shop's excess inventory.**

## Participating Alexandria merchants include:

- ❖ Bishop Boutique, 815-B King St.
- ❖ Coco Blanca, 210 S. Union St.
- ❖ Dolce Collection, 1321 Gatewood Drive
- ❖ Duchess M, 805 King St.
- ❖ Gossypia, 325 Cameron St.
- ❖ Hysteria, 123 S. Fairfax St.
- ❖ Mystique Jewelers, 211 Strand St.
- ❖ Olio Tasting Room, 1223 King St.
- ❖ Queen Bee Designs, 1410 Cool Spring Drive
- ❖ Sara Campbell, 320 Prince St.
- ❖ She's Unique, 205 King St.
- ❖ Stuart Nordin, 101 S. St. Asaph St.
- ❖ The Pink Palm, 1123 King St.
- ❖ The Shoe Hive, 127 S. Fairfax St.
- ❖ Tokka and Chris, etsy.com
- ❖ Top It Off, 1906 Mount Vernon Ave.

The recently closed Periwinkle and The Little Monogram Shop will be selling their excess inventory. Additional participating stores from DC and Northern Virginia include Britt Ryan, Fornas, J McLaughlin, Kiki Lynn and Sherman Pickey. Visit [www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com](http://www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com).

ping extravaganza features merchandise from more than 25 vendors from around the region, including clothing, shoes, jewelry, home furnishings and more up to 70 or 80 percent off retail prices.

"Experienced shoppers know to line up early in the morning to get first grabs at top merchandise," Todd added.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

Shakespeare's unhappy love scenes. Just in time for St. Valentine's Day: A reminder that dysfunctional love is eternal. DC-area theatre actors will read scenes of love and discord. Dessert reception follows the reading. \$15. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Andrew O'Day.** 8-11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 13

**Eric Benet.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.

Tickets \$59.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**The Beverly Hillbillies.** 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at [www.mvcct.org](http://www.mvcct.org).

### FRIDAY-MONDAY/FEB. 13-16

**George Washington's Masonic Apron on View.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon,

3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. This Masonic apron was made in France and is believed to have been presented to George Washington at Mount Vernon in 1784 by the Marquis de Lafayette, a former general and close friend of Washington's, who was also a Freemason. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 13-SUNDAY/MARCH 29

**"In and of the Land."** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during performances at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 4915

## Alexandria Celebrates George Washington's Birthday

Locations, dates and costs vary. Find event information at [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday).

❖ **George Washington Birthday Parade** – Feb. 16, 1-3 p.m. The nation's largest George Washington Birthday parade marches a one-mile route through the streets of Old Town Alexandria. With nearly 3,500 participants, this community parade honors one of the city's favorite sons. Free.

❖ **Cherry Challenge** — Through Tuesday, Feb. 10, in honor of George Washington's birthday, 30 Alexandria restaurants serve unique, cherry-centric dishes in celebration of one of the most cherished legends surrounding our first president. Patrons rate their favorite dishes and winners are given special recognition at the George Washington Birthday Parade.

❖ **18th Century Dance Classes** — 7:30-9:30 p.m. In preparation for the Birthnigh Ball on Feb. 14, learn 18th century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets: \$12 per class or \$30 for series.

❖ **Walking with Washington tours** – Sundays in February, 2-3 p.m. Walk in George Washington's footsteps through his hometown, historic Alexandria, and view some of the sites connected to the General, like where he filled his prescriptions or slept overnight before returning to Mount Vernon. Free.

❖ **George Washington's Birthnigh Banquet & Ball** – Feb. 14, 5:30-11 p.m. Don dancing shoes for this famous celebration of Washington's Birthday at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. \$125 for banquet and ball; \$50 for ball only. Advance reservations required.

❖ **Madeira Tasting with President Washington** – Feb. 15, 3-5 p.m. Delight in Madeira wines (George Washington's favorite drink) and insight into their production plus food pairings. \$45.

❖ **George Washington Classic 10-K Race and 2-K Fun Run** – Feb. 16, 8 a.m. Dash through this certified course through Eisenhower Valley. Prizes, t-shirts and refreshments will be provided. All proceeds benefit the historic celebration. \$40 for 10-K; \$10 for 2-K.

❖ **Historic Alexandria Open Houses** – Feb. 16, times vary. Admission is free at these historic Alexandria sites: Carlyle House, Christ Church, Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and the Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum.

❖ **Breakfast and Meeting of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association** – Feb. 16, 9-10:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, this annual tradition at the Hotel Monaco features "George Washington's" first appearance of the day, plus an address by a speaker and breakfast. \$30. Ticket information at [www.friendshipfire.net](http://www.friendshipfire.net) or at 703-751-6416.

❖ **Revolutionary War Reenactment at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site** – Feb. 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Historic camp and tactical demonstrations throughout the day including a Revolutionary War skirmish at 2 p.m. between the Redcoats and the Colonial Army. Free.

❖ **Tomb Ceremony** – Feb. 17, 11 a.m.-noon. Colonial military and civilians honor the soldiers of the Revolution at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Free.

East Campus Drive, Alexandria. "In and of the Land" is a two person exhibition of recent work in paintings by Clive Pates and ceramics by Virginia Rood Pates. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery) for more.

### FEB. 13-MAY 25

**Nine Paintings from John Chapman.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Nine unique paintings by the Virginia born artist John Gadsby Chapman (1808-1889) illustrating landscape scenes important to George Washington's biography are

on view. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 14

**"Blues Babies."** 12:30-2 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Enjoy an afternoon of live music interwoven with multi-media and storytelling, exploring the modernization of the Blues and its influence upon Jazz, Gospel, Rhythm & Blues, Rock & Roll, Soul, Soul Blues, and other related music genre. Free. Call 703-746-4356.

**Opening Reception and Gallery Talk.** 2-4 p.m. at Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery in The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Alexandria Campus of

### Good Shepherd Catholic Church

#### Mass Schedule

<b>Monday</b> 6:30 pm Mass (Español) <b>Saturday Evening</b> 5:00 pm Vigil Mass 6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español) <b>Sunday</b> 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm	(en Español); 6:30 pm <b>Weekday &amp; Saturday Mornings:</b> 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on <b>First Friday</b> , Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration) <b>Thursday &amp; First Friday of the Month:</b> 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration
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# ENTERTAINMENT

Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. “In and of the Land,” paintings by Clive Pates and Ceramics by Virginia Rood Pates, a two-person exhibition of recent work in painting and ceramics that relates on multiple levels – the relationship of the artists, the source material of a common landscape, and a harmony of color and abstract form. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery) for more.

**Burlesque-A-Pades in Loveland.** 6 p.m. doors, 7:30 p.m. show, at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. In this Valentine's Day production, Burlesque-A-Pades is serving up an evening jam packed with entertainment, including among others, award winning Burlesque Queen Angie Pontani. Full dinner and cocktail service is offered at the show plus learn more about the rich history of burlesque in American Theater with a pop up museum exhibit that will be featured in the lobby. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

**The Beverly Hillbillies.** 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at [www.mvccct.org](http://www.mvccct.org).

**Andrew O'Day.** 8-11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

**Dare to Follow Your Heart.** 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. Soprano Elizabeth Overmann joins the orchestra to perform two arias from Mozart's “The Magic Flute” as well as a song from Patrick Doyle's score to the 1995 film “Sense and Sensibility.” The ASO cello section is featured on Heitor Villa-Lobos “Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1” and the full orchestra is heard on the instrumental movements from Felix Mendelssohn's classic “A Midsummer Night's Dream.” Visit [www.alexsym.org/](http://www.alexsym.org/) or call 703-548-0885.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 14-15

**Celebrate Washington's Birthday.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All weekend guests will be encouraged to create birthday greetings for George Washington which will be shared with “General Washington.” Included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$18; children 6-11, \$9; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

❖ 9 a.m.-noon — Join “General Washington” for a sample of hoecakes prepared by Mount Vernon staff (while supplies last)  
❖ 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. — A wreathlaying at the tomb of George Washington  
❖ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Visitors can mingle with costumed characters from George Washington's world  
❖ 1:45 p.m. — Take part in Mount Vernon's largest-ever 18<sup>th</sup>-century dancing demonstration with costumed characters on the Bowling Green.  
❖ 2 p.m. — After the dancing ends, re-enactors gather with visitors to share selected stories

## SUNDAY/FEB. 15

**Magic: The Gathering Tournament.** 2 p.m. in the Great Hall of John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Registration

starts at 1 p.m. The 1st-4th Prizes are gift certificates to John Strongbow's Tavern. The 5th-8th Prizes: Packs of Fate Reforged prizes will be based on attendance. This event will be unsanctioned. Entry fee is \$35. Participants should pre-register by calling John Strongbow's Tavern at 703-329-3075. Visit [www.medievalmadness.com](http://www.medievalmadness.com) for more.

**Walk with Washington Tour.** 2 p.m., at Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, 221 King Street, Alexandria. The walk focuses on important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. It lasts 60-90 minutes. Free. Call 703-746-3301 for more.

**The Beverly Hillbillies.** 3 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at [www.mvccct.org](http://www.mvccct.org).

**Dare to Follow Your Heart.** 3:30 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Soprano Elizabeth Overmann joins the orchestra to perform two arias from Mozart's “The Magic Flute” as well as a song from Patrick Doyle's score to the 1995 film “Sense and Sensibility.” The ASO cello section is featured on Heitor Villa-Lobos “Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1” and the full orchestra is heard on the instrumental movements from Felix Mendelssohn's classic “A Midsummer Night's Dream.” Visit [www.alexsym.org/](http://www.alexsym.org/) or call 703-548-0885.

## MONDAY/FEB. 16

**George Washington's Birthday.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Free admission to George Washington's home and burial site. “General Washington” is on the grounds to greet visitors and receive birthday wishes all day. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

❖ 10 a.m. — Traditional wreathlaying ceremony at Washington's Tomb  
❖ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Visitors can mingle with costumed characters from George Washington's world  
❖ 11:15 a.m. — Patriotic music and military performances on the Bowling Green  
❖ 1:45 p.m. — Visitors may take part in Mount Vernon's largest-ever 18<sup>th</sup>-century dancing demonstration with costumed characters on the Bowling Green.  
❖ 2 p.m. — Re-enactors gather with visitors to share selected stories  
❖ 3 p.m. — A second wreathlaying at the tomb of George Washington

## TUESDAY/FEB. 17

**History to Life.** 12:45 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In honor of George Washington's birthday, learn how the citizens of Alexandria would celebrate his birthday in the late 1790s. Includes opportunity to wear reproduction clothing and a period dance lesson. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

**Bob Hume & Martha Capone.** 7-9 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 20

**Andrew O'Day.** 8 - 11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St.,

Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 21

### Dinner and Silent and Live

**Auctions.** 3 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Enjoy the afternoon and evening with a silent auction at 3 p.m., followed by a wine bar at 5 p.m., a potluck dinner at 5:30 and a live auction at 6:45. Bring a dish to share. All proceeds will benefit the church. Contact Kelly Campbell at [moonbeam610@gmail.com](mailto:moonbeam610@gmail.com) for more information. Visit [mvuc.org/](http://mvuc.org/) for more.

**Benefit Concert.** 7 p.m. in the Meeting House at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Emma's Revolution headlines a benefit concert for the Katie Tyson Fund for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Visit [mvuc.org/](http://mvuc.org/) for more.

**The Hooligans.** 9-11 p.m. at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 22

**Walk with Washington Tour.** 2 p.m., at Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, 221 King St., Alexandria. The walk focuses on important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 minutes. Free. Call 703-746-3301 for more.

**Gallery Talk, Symbiosis and Tension,** 3 p.m. in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Artists Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent explain their process, inspiration, and how their friendship played a role in the creation of the works in the show. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**Lenten Evensong.** 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 228 South Pitt St., Alexandria. Arlington's Tina Chancey will play early musical instruments, including the rebec, vielle, kamenj, viol, and lyra viol. Her performance will be followed by a Lenten Choral Evensong service at St. Paul's Old Town, directed by Grant Hellmers, organist-choirmaster, and will feature music by English composer Henry Purcell. Free. Donations will go to St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry. Call 703-549-3312 for more.

## MONDAY/FEB. 23

**Agenda:Alexandria Dinner.** 6:45 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Agenda:Alexandria presents “Down the Hatch: Alexandria's Luscious Libations” with Steve Bashore, manager of Historic Trades at Mount Vernon; Bill Butcher, founder, Port City Brewery; and Todd Thrasher, sommelier and liquid savant, Eat Good Food Group. Dinner catered by Bittersweet Catering at 6:45 (\$32-\$42); program only at 7:15 (members free; nonmembers \$5). Reservations required. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email [agendaalexandria@aol.com](mailto:agendaalexandria@aol.com).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 26

**Bob Hume & Martha Capone.** 7-9 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

**Mike + The Mechanics 30th Anniversary Tour.** 7:30 p.m. The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Their first American tour in almost 25 years. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.



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## I-395 South Widening Alexandria and Fairfax County Public Information Meeting

**Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7 – 9 p.m.**  
(If cancelled due to weather: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015)  
Holmes Middle School Cafeteria  
6525 Montrose Street, Alexandria, VA 22312

**Find out** about plans to construct a fourth through lane on southbound I-395 between Duke Street and Edsall Road. There are currently four southbound through lanes north and south of the project corridor, but only three through lanes within the project limits. The additional lane constructed with this project will fill the gap to ease bottlenecks through the Landmark area.

**Stop by** between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to view displays and learn about the project. VDOT staff will be available to answer your questions. If the meeting is cancelled for inclement weather, the alternate date will be Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015 at the same time and location.

**Review** project details at [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org), at the meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer questions.

**Give your written comments** at the meeting, or submit them by **February 26, 2015** to Mr. Calvin Britt, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [meeting\\_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meeting_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference “I-395 South Additional Through Lane” in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the VDOT manager at the above phone numbers.

State Project: 0395-029-015,P101 UPC: 103316



FROM PAGE 10

reaches 92 percent occupancy for 30 days is seen as a generous offer and a major concession obtained by city planners. According to the city's own document used in this rezoning request, the occupancy rate for Nursing Home Bed-Needs in zone PD-8, which includes Alexandria, has been dropping each of the past five years and has never exceeded 90 percent.

I can only think the developer and their lawyers are laughing at the gullibility of our city leaders when they put forward a grand offer they know is unlikely to occur or if it does; it will be for a very limited time based on their own residency estimate. Our city leaders need to realize the emptiness of this offer, and demand that it be made meaningful. The two beds should be increased to at least three — which is still less than five percent of the 66 planned beds. More importantly, to make sure the commitment is real and will happen, the discounted beds should be resident numbers 11, 22 and 33 rather than waiting for 92 percent occupancy sustained over 30 days. Such a modest change will ensure that the offer being made has economic meaning and will provide a real benefit to the city and its citizens. The proposed 20-year limit on subsidized beds should be modified as this is not a 20-year re-zoning change. Also the effects to the neighborhood and traffic will continue beyond the 20 years subsidy offer. Why does the developer want to limit the term of the offer that is of most benefit to the community?

If the city is to accommodate the developer by change the zoning from residential to institutional with additional special provisions over the strong objections of many in the community, then the developer should reciprocate with a meaningful concession that has real benefit to the city and residents.

**Terese McLeod/Alexandria**

## Don't Complain, Help Fix

To the Editor:

In reading a recent edition, I was taken aback at the tone of the letters to the editor — a tone almost like what we have been ill-treated to in the Congress — of negativity about our mayor and council, and impugning our current, acting city manager. My assumption would be that for writers who only have ill to say, I am trusting they will each put themselves forward as candidates in our next election, for it is easy to criticize, but we are in the midst of one

of the worst hard times in terms of fiscal and economic challenges in Alexandria and across Northern Virginia. In his newly released New Virginia Economy report, Gov. Terry McAuliffe enunciated priorities for improving the commonwealth's economy — an increasingly urgent, if taxing task, as Virginia's economic growth has fallen behind the rest of the nation's states. Despite faring better than the rest of the country during the depths of the recession, the commonwealth's growth has trailed the national rate the past three years, with the Governor's new report attributing this downturn to an over-reliance on the federal government for jobs and growth. Exacerbated by federal sequestration cuts that went into effect last year, the decline in federal spending has contributed to a region-wide shift from higher-paying jobs — government contractor or subcontractor, for example — to jobs that pay less, according to George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis.

The declines have had — and will continue to have — adverse impacts on Alexandria's projected tax revenues. Fewer highly paid workers, in turn, has led to a weaker and more stagnant real estate market, higher office vacancy rates and — year after year — reductions in the projected flow of tax dollars that help pay for Alexandria's schools, roads, and other vital government services.

Put simply, it will simply not be possible to return to pre-recession levels of funding and services without changes in tax and spending priorities: that is the proverbial tax rub. Moreover, the taxing choices arise just as the state's demographics and rising costs are driving up spending on health care, pensions, and transportation. Moreover, the hard and taxing times for the Governor and General Assembly, this session, could also cause state-local fiscal stress: will the state make decisions that decrease local aid or undercut local revenues in order to balance the state's budget? Virginia's local governments, after all, especially in Northern Virginia, face equally daunting challenges of balancing reduced service quality or significantly raising local taxes, even as the Commonwealth's planning documents indicate that Virginia's general fund revenues will be inadequate to fund obligations from prior years (debt service and pensions), keep up with health care costs, restore recession slashes to local aid, improve health and education services, and maintain and improve transportation and other infrastructure.

# Joining Friendly Visitors

BY ALEXANDRA WOODMAN JOHNSON  
COMMUNITY LIAISON, OLD DOMINION HOME  
CARE AND A MEMBER OF SENIOR SERVICES OF  
ALEXANDRIA'S FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM

I wanted to make a difference. When I first learned about the Friendly Visitor Program through Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) it sounded like a good way to do just that. The commitment is just one hour a week, to go visit with my senior friend Rosemary who is bedbound and on a ventilator. She resides at Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare. They have been a strong supporter of the Friendly Visitor Program since its inception. I find that our time together flies by as we talk about our families, the places we've been and the experiences we have had. And we laugh a lot too. Rosemary has a good sense of humor (she is also a trivia expert). Rosemary tells me weekly how much our visits mean to her, how they pick up her spirits. This said, however, the biggest difference has been in my life. Our time together is a gift to me, a little present I give to myself each week. And good things have a way of spreading

## SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

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After hearing me talk about how much I was enjoying my visits, my sister, Courtney Weitekamp and her son, Jan Bannon decided that they would also become Friendly Visitors. Courtney, a kindergarten teacher at Charles Barrett Elementary School, has taught for 30 years; her senior friend Sylvia was also a teacher, in the U.S., Germany, Italy and Turkey. Of course they share stories about being in the classroom but their connection goes way beyond that.

My sister says, "Visiting Sylvia has been amazing. Never have I gotten so much from another person. Every visit I learn something new. We read, watch football, listen to music and she remembers parts of her life she thought she had forgotten. After my visits I reflect on some of the valuable facts of life I am learning. She is teach-



**Friendly Visitors: Alexandra Woodman Johnson, Jan Bannon and Courtney Weitekamp**

ing me how an older woman can think and cope with life. It is a tremendous trade off, an hour a week and I'm calmer, more refreshed and much more chill about life." My nephew Jan is a senior at T.C. Williams High School. He is a smart kid with a funny sense of humor and an interest in history. Sarah Drexler, the volunteer director at SSA, once again made a perfect match. Jan loves his senior friend Dick; he says, "Dick is a wise man from whom I can learn very much about the past. He is kind and smart, and he is really funny. His memory is sharp so he is quick witted and always good for a laugh." On their first visit, Dick asked Jan if he liked the It's Academic television program; Jan has been on the T.C. Williams team for several years. Just two weekends ago, the show aired with Jan representing the team. Dick was thrilled to see his friend on TV, and Jan couldn't have been more proud to share the experience with him. In our family we were taught to serve our community, help those in need and be good to each other. This is what matters. Courtney, Jan and I are so thankful to SSA for giving us this great opportunity. We recommend the program. We know there is a special friend just waiting for you too.

To be a Friendly Visitor, contact Sarah Drexler, SSA's program manager at [friendlyvisitor@seniorservicesalex.org](mailto:friendlyvisitor@seniorservicesalex.org) or call 703-836-4414, ext 20.

Virginia's large cities are bearing the brunt of the latest round of cuts in state aid to local governments, and the situation is likely to get worse as the General Assembly and Gov. Terry McAuliffe prepare for deeper reductions in state revenue in the next fiscal year.

Given the exceptional challenges — most of which are far beyond the control of our current mayor, council, and key senior staff — one would hope that citizens would be unlike modern Congressional wannabes, and instead engage constructively. It has been my good fortune, over the years, to have been able to work with both our elected officials in the city and staff to ensure single women heads of households can have access to affordable housing, that every child — irrespective of physical, mental, or emotional dis-

ability — can play soccer, that every daughter in our public school system can have access to critical health care options, that the city has set a precedent for honoring those who have offered distinguished services and commitments to our community, and that we, as a community, on the last Saturday of every month can feed thousands of our fellow citizens. Each of these efforts has required years' of effort — but in each and every instance, I have been gratified by the willingness of both elected leaders and staff at City Hall to listen, to challenge, and to respond.

Having worked at every level of government in our country — and in Liberia and Colombia — I do appreciate that the lowest paid, but most critical level of government in our country is the local level: whether it was on 9/11 or in the most recent Ebola crisis, it

was local responders who were — and are — on the front line. Whether it is determining there should be a late, weather-related opening or a zoning change; local governments are by far the most prone to second guessing by citizens and taxpayers — but the level of government that has the least time or space in which to react and act.

I appreciate that friends, neighbors, and citizens in our community have a vast diversity of views and expectations. In our city, we are bound together, but it seems to me that means we share some responsibilities as part of our rights of citizenship. We owe a sense of respect to those who serve us: we do not have to like or agree with them — but we do have a duty to offer constructive alternatives if we disagree.

**Frank Shafroth/Alexandria**



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## 21 Announcements

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## OBITUARY APHRODITE SANTOS HERO

Aphrodite S. Hero, 87, a Washington, D.C. arts and education activist since settling in this area in the 1950s, died peacefully on February 1, 2015 in Charlotte, NC.

Mrs. Hero, a native of New York City, graduated from Columbia University and pursued graduate studies at NYU and George Mason University.

After moving to the Washington area, Mrs. Hero became very active in the local communities. Mrs. Hero was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Symphony, Wolf Trap Associates, Virginia Chamber Orchestra, and the George Mason University Board for the Center for the Arts. She was past President of the Women's Committee for the NSO, and past vice-president of the American Association of University Women, Mount Vernon Branch. Mrs. Hero was also a member of the Capital Speaker Club, Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, Tri Delta Alumnae Association and the Arts League of Washington.

Mrs. Hero is preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, The Honorable Sophocles A. Hero. She is survived by her son Gregory (Susan) of Cornelius, NC, four incredible grandchildren (Andreas, Nicole, Devon and Keenan), and brother, James Santos (Ruth) of Stowe, Vermont.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the National Symphony Orchestra Education Scholarship Fund, the Wolf Trap Education Fund or the Lombardi Cancer Center.

The funeral service will be held at the Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA., this Monday, February 9, 2015, at 11:00am with a burial service to be followed, at the Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington, VA.

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## OBITUARY



### Max Cameron Johnson

**December 24, 1926 – January 27, 2015**

Max Cameron Johnson, formerly of Alexandria, Virginia passed away January 27, 2015 at Applewood Living Center, Longmont, CO.

He was 88 years old.

He was born December 24, 1926 in Norfolk, Virginia. Max moved to Roanoke, VA where he was raised and attended school. He went on to graduate from Virginia Southern College.

Max enlisted in the United States Army during WWII and was a member of an Airborne unit. He was honorably discharged from active duty on December 6, 1946. He then served with the Ready Reserves at Langley AFB until February 22, 1963.

He married Anna Johnston in 1954 and they made their home in Alexandria, VA. He moved to Longmont in 2011, following the death of Anna on December 22, 2010, to be close to his family.

Max was a Special Agent for the United States Department of the Treasury, retiring in 1984.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge.

Max volunteered his time as a tax preparer and at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. He was a Civil War buff and enjoyed growing Bonsai trees, classical music, writing poetry, bird-watching and swimming.

He is survived by his sister Gayle Jeffreys of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, sister-in-law Sue Loper of Niwot, CO and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held on from 12:30-2:30pm, Sunday, February 22, 2015 at The Chinquapin Rec Center, 3210 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Cremation entrusted to Ahlberg Funeral Chapel and Crematory, Longmont, CO. Memorial contributions may be made to Franklin County (Virginia) Historical Society, Rocky Mount, VA or the Men's Home, Alexandria, VA and sent in c/o Ahlberg Funeral Chapel, 326 Terry St., Longmont, CO 80501. Visit [www.ahlbergfuneralchapel.com](http://www.ahlbergfuneralchapel.com) to share condolences.

## SPORTS

# Reacting to End of Super Bowl

**Majority say they  
would have called  
a run play from  
1-yard line.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**ony Verducci still regrets not calling a timeout. Football coaches spend countless hours during the season preparing their teams for game day. They must develop a strategy for attacking and defending against a particular opponent. They must choose which of their athletes will get the most playing time. And they must find a way to motivate their players to perform to the best of their ability.

After all the time, effort and emotion coaches spend preparing their teams for a game, sometimes a contest can be decided by a single decision.

On Sunday night in Glendale, Ariz., Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll and offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell combined to make a decision that will be remembered for years to come.

Seattle trailed the New England Patriots 28-24 with less than 1 minute remaining in Super Bowl XLIX. The Seahawks faced second-and-goal at the 1-yard line with the clock ticking and one timeout available. Through 59-plus minutes, Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch, nicknamed "Beast Mode" for his violent running style and ability to break tackles, had amassed 102 yards and a touchdown on 24 carries, including a 4-yard run on the previous play that placed the ball just shy of the goal line.

**ON THE VERGE** of becoming the first team in a decade to win back-to-back Super Bowls, Carroll and Bevell called for a pass play rather than handing the ball to their star running back. The play called for wide receiver Ricardo Lockette to run a slant pattern. In theory, Lockette, with the help of a "pick" from fellow receiver Jermaine Kearse, was supposed to flash open for a touchdown. But when quarterback Russell Wilson fired the football toward Lockette, New England rookie defensive back Malcolm Butler jumped the route and intercepted the pass, securing the Patriots' fourth Super Bowl championship of the millennium and leaving the Seahawks wondering what could have been.

After the game, the play call received harsh criticism from fans, media members, and players from other teams.

From ESPN.com: "Carroll botches Super Bowl.

The following day, several high school football coaches from Northern Virginia shared their thoughts about the final minute of Super Bowl XLIX. The majority of those who responded said they would have called a run play on second-and-goal from the 1. Some coaches acknowledged that it's easy to second guess a decision, and some shared tough decisions they had to make in the

past.

Verducci, head football coach at Bishop Ireton, was "shocked" by Seattle's decision to throw the football.

"In a similar situation against Green Bay [in the NFC Championship game on Jan. 18] the Seahawks ran 'read option' and Russell Wilson was virtually untouched scoring a touchdown," Verducci wrote in an email. "During the timeout [prior to first down], I would have called a power running play for Lynch on second down and the read option for Wilson on third down if they did not score. I would have used my final timeout if the second and third down runs were unsuccessful."

Verducci is haunted by his own tough decision gone wrong. Facing St. Christopher's in the 2011 state semifinals, Bishop Ireton led 34-31 with less than a minute remaining in the fourth quarter. St. Christopher's faced fourth-and-15 at its own 2-yard line with less than 1 minute remaining and no timeouts.

"My gut instinct was to call a timeout," Verducci wrote, "but I did not call one."

St. Christopher's executed a hook-and-lateral play that broke loose for a 98-yard touchdown and the Saints held on for a 38-34 victory.

"I still regret the fact," Verducci wrote, "I did not call the timeout to discuss the possibility of a trick play, among other things."

Carroll, Bevell and Seahawks players will have all offseason to think about coming up 1 yard short of winning Super Bowl XLIX and the play call that led to the game-ending interception. Will they get over the disappointment? According to ESPN.com, the Westgate SuperBook and the William Hill sports book have Seattle as 5-to-1 favorites to win Super Bowl 50 following the 2015 season.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

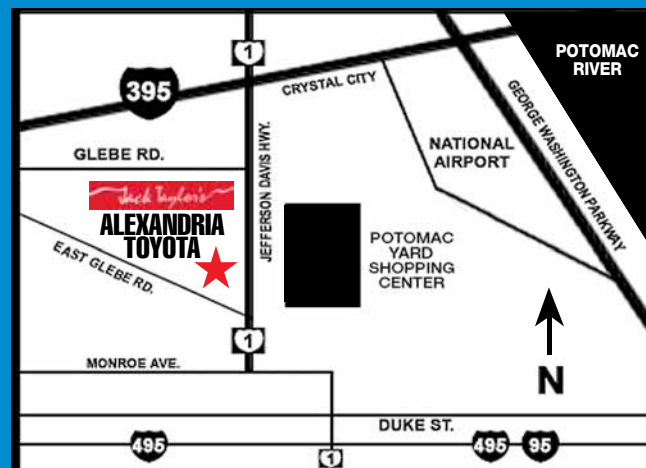
## Triumphant

**Myles Lewis and the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys' basketball team defeated Episcopal 70-56 on Jan. 30. The Saints also defeated Georgetown Prep 83-71 on Tuesday. SSSAS will travel to face Landon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6.**



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